**Voting a right and privilege teens should not waste**

It is undoubtedly true that young people aren’t as involved in politics as they should be.

In fact, the statistics show that young adults make up the majority of the non-voters during elections.

We live in a generation where our young adult population is dissatisfied with the majority of government decisions. But how can we change this widespread national dissatisfaction if young adults don’t go to the polls to voice their beliefs?

The only people who can make a difference in our communities and our country are our young people. They are the voice of change, and their voices must be heard.

During the 2010 election, voter turnout increased by 16 percent for people over the age of 65. Compare that to the 55 percent decrease in voter turnout for young adults aged 18-29.

This is a startling statistic considering that voters in this 18-29 age range account for about 21 percent of the voting population.

And the numbers don’t stop there.

Less than half of all 18 year olds are registered to vote. In a country that is growing in diversity and tolerance, older adults and the elderly are heading out to the polls to voice their conservative views, while the majority of young people are voting for liberal policies.

If young people don’t vote, they will not get the political change that they believe is necessary for peaceful coexistence in the 21st century.

Even if you can’t vote, there are many ways for teens to get involved in politics.

The first step to getting involved is simply having an interest.

Many young people take on the political views of their parents.

Instead, young people need to open their eyes and ears to learn about current events and controversies.

Think about what your feelings are on a certain subject, and research the opposing viewpoint. An educated opinion is essential.

Young people are the future of our country, and a motivated teen has more power than the vote of one adult.

One of the primary reasons why Barack Obama was elected president was due to an infectious rallying for a cause of change.

The source of the movement?

American youth.

Young people will have to face the repercussions of not voting if they don’t begin to form their morals and values as high school students.

The impression on young people that government is the population over the age of 40 is tainting the minds of our young people.

Every citizen is a part of the American democracy, and not exercising your freedom to vote is essentially un-American.

Do your research, find your beliefs, and stand up for them.

Silence is the door of consent, and high school students must voice their beliefs to truly be content with our democracy.

Former president Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves- and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

So head out to the polls, because in our democracy, your vote is essential to your achievement of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.