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Grade: 11

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I can honestly say I don't know how we got here. I don't know how we let it get this far. Our president is now a man who frequently calls women pigs, and calls abortion "punishable". We are living in a nightmare, that we've yet to wake from. But we will.

In third grade I went into my classroom and talked about the Affordable Care Act. In middle school I fought against sexual objectification. Now in high school I created Students Rock the Congress. I guess you could say I have always been politically involved, but not until the 2016 election did I become a Student Activist. I am proud to say the Women's Wave is upon us, and it's a tsunami. We are the force that will shatter the glass ceiling, and create change this country so desperately needs.

The women's movement has proven time and time again that we can and will come together to make a change. January 1st of 2018 the Me Too Movement began. January 20th of 2018 women marched for the second year in a row, and here we are again strong as ever, and fighting for our fundamental rights. The fact that these rights are being threatened is unacceptable; in the 1960's women marched for their rights and we will follow in their footsteps. I am here on behalf of the 1 in 6 women who will experience sexual assault. I am here on behalf of those who don't have a voice. Because our stories deserve to be heard.

It is hard to stay hopeful and positive in the current political climate, but I am hopeful. The coming generation will vote in the upcoming elections. We are the future activists and politicians; the voice of America. We are the movers and shakers of our time- we've seen our peers shot down and put down across the country; we've seen women stripped of their dignity, and we've seen accused sexual predators take office. No more. We have arrived, full of passion, convictions and motivation. The future of our country is in our hands.

Words are easier than action, but action is possible. For youth, go out and find a local political club, encourage your parents, and peers to vote; most of all, stand up for what you believe is right, and don't let your voice be silenced. To the generations before us, support your local youth, give them the resources they need, and listen. Youth are so often disregarded in the political field, but why? We have every reason to care, and we do; our future is at stake and we intend to make it great.

It's true we've received an apology from the past generation for creating climate change, but did they have school shootings, hate crimes, and hate the way we do now? No. This country is run by fear instead of love. The land of liberty is now the land of trepidation. We are here to change that, one woman at a time. We are the foundation of this society, and refuse to let it crumble.