

The Power of Youth
437 Words

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Young people and adults underestimate the power of youth. Young people have proven that they have great potential to contribute to society. They bring a new perspective as well as their knowledge, creativity, passion and hard work, to what is happening around them. America's pop culture is influenced by the actions and views of the younger generations. The changes are visible all around. Clothing styles are influenced by the young buyer, television shows by young viewers, and music by young listeners.

Changing pop culture is not all though; young people have more power still. They have the power to control their own destiny. They can decide if they will be motivated enough to put in the time and effort needed to set themselves apart and to excel. They will decide what they will make of their education and their experiences. They will decide if they will use what they have gained to their advantage or let it be wasted.

The power that youth possesses has been underestimated throughout history. Thomas Edison and Isaac Newton did poorly in grade school, yet they are known for their inventions and discoveries. Winston Churchill failed sixth grade, but he became a historic politician. Beethoven handled the violin so awkwardly that his teacher labeled

him hopeless as a composer, yet he wrote some of the most beautiful music the world has ever heard.¹ Sometimes society forgets that people - even young people - have the power to choose their own destiny. An adult cannot judge the power within a child to become successful based on his own wisdom and past experiences. It is important that this be recognized.

Every day, young people are striving toward excellence and proving that they really do care about what is going on around them. In some cases, young people seem to care more than some adults do. Proof of this is comparing the number of volunteer hours by both young people and adults. Fifty-five percent of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 volunteer their time during the year while only twenty-nine percent of adults volunteer their time. Over 1.3 billion hours of community service was performed by young people in 2004.² Today's youth are giving their time and talent to help make a difference and show their great character.

Power is defined as “the possession of control or command over oneself or others; the capability of doing or accomplishing something.”³ Young people have definitely shown that they are very powerful. They have accomplished and will continue to accomplish, greatness. Because of this, the benefits of empowering the youth are too great to ignore.

¹ Elster, Erin. February 3, 2009. www.erinelster.com

² Fritz, Joanne. February 3, 2009. www.about.com

³ Dictionary. February 3, 2009. www.dictionary.reference.com

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