

As a child, I believed I would never be interested in politics. It was just boring adult stuff, similar to taxes and the stock market. Last year I heard about the Dakota Access Pipeline and how it would go through Native American territory and pollute their water. I was enraged that Native Americans were still being treated unfairly when this land was originally theirs. However, I had no idea how I could take action. I felt helpless that I couldn't do more to support the issue that I cared about. My passion made me begin to notice injustice all around me. It was then that I discovered what politics truly are. I realized that politics affects me and the people around me.

"Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral." — Paulo Freire

I started to wonder how people could say, "Politics just doesn't interest me," when politics is the governance of every citizen. We forget that we are born into privileges and can therefore afford to be less interested in the laws that can make a huge difference in others' lives. I believe in the importance of youth involvement in politics because youth create the future.

I was so passionate about this, I wrote and recorded a segment for The California Report that was aired on KQEI on the importance of youth involvement in politics. I wanted to become more involved. Then, I discovered **Day of the Girl**, an organization that advocates for intersectional feminism and many important topics. As a member of the Action Team, I created a letter writing toolkit that helps activists host an event for letter writing to politicians on issues that they care about. I manage the blog where people submit essays on topics they want to bring awareness to, because the **Day of the Girl** is a platform for their voice to be heard. Now, I can provide the resources for others to take action on the issues that they are passionate about, in a way that I never could before. I can finally take a stand against injustice, and I can help others do the same.

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. — Mother Teresa