

## Youth and society

1. Today many young people take an active part in social life. What issues are important for them? (Sasha)

Firstly I think time management is a huge issue for today's youth. Between school and work and studying and spending time with family and friends, most people have packed schedules. They're expected to perform to the best of their abilities, and put effort into all that they do, but the truth is many teens today do a lot. If we can learn to prioritize and learn good time management skills, it'll only help us in the future. Yes, it will be a challenge, but it's a lifelong skill as well.

Secondly one of the most important issues facing today's youth is the environment, especially the problem of global warming. While species extinction, overfishing, acid rain, urban sprawl, expanding landfills, and the holes in the ozone layer are serious problems, global warming is the most immediate urgent. It is our generation that will have to either ~~halt~~ stop and reverse greenhouse gas emissions or face the ~~inundation~~ flooding of our coastal cities as the world's ocean levels rise with melted ice from the Greenland and Antarctic ice shelves.

On the other hand, the real challenges that a youth faces is certainly how ~~will he/she~~ they will be able to survive in this world, getting a good job, earning money and reputation. ~~This~~ I speak about this considering the fact that it is a natural human tendency to first secure ~~his~~ their own future and think about ~~himself~~ themselves before looking at a broader perspective like the environment. The Environment is certainly a problem that we face today but not many young people think about it. There are more issues, but for me these three are the most important, youth face them every day in their life. Also these three issues can be solved by youth with the help of youth organisations.

2. Today young people take an active part in social life. How do they do it?

Today's young people have different interests. And there are created a lot of new organizations to satisfy them and in our time communication through the Internet plays a big role in it. ~~If before~~ Several years ago you had to go to the headquarters of the organization to find out what activities the organization carries out offers, or find the necessary information about the organization, but now you should just turn on the computer and go to the website of the organization.

In a word, many young people today enter in join different organizations and take an active part in social life due to the fact that information is available and there are a lot of opportunities to communicate with like-minded people.

3. Not all people in Belarus have joined youth organisations. What stops them? (Liz)

4. What campaign would you recommend to start? Why? (Eugene)

In our world there are a lot of campaigns which we can start. For example: free recycling for schools, SRE, reducing the voting age to 16, cheaper bus fares for young people, ~~searp~~ scrap university tuition fees, political education for all.

All of these these campaigns are very important. Everyone can start that the campaign which attracts them. Also for people who love nature i can recommend WWF, Greenpeace, PETA. ~~Also we can~~ As far as I'm concerned, I would start a greening campaign, because today all cities get

~~wider~~ are growing and as a result of urban sprawl the area of green zones start to ~~extinct~~ decrease, that's why we should start that campaign.

5. A lot of young people think that there is nothing better than having money. Do you agree with them? (Bogdan)

In my opinion, money is important because having money means that you will not be poor. It means that you are not dependent on being employed, living paycheck to paycheck. ~~t-But~~ However, there are a lot of more important values in the life of every human.

1. Health

I strongly believe that the first treasure is health. Rather than thinking of illness as something bad that happens to you, we should start thinking of health as something good that's happening to you.

2. Friendship

Another valuable thing is friendship. Almost everyone has friends, although it's easy to lose track of them in the rush of events. ~~Take a few minutes--today--to reconnect with some of them.~~

3. Family

Everyone will agree with me that our family is one of the greatest gifts we have. If you've got a good relationship with your family, ~~rejoice!~~ you're experiencing one of the deepest sources of happiness on the planet.

4. Education

Everybody wants to live in a big house, to have a beautiful car and ~~et~~ various luxurious things. But without education you can't get a ~~good~~ satisfying well-paid job. So education can help us to have a wealthy life.

6. What issues would you recommend to discuss at a monthly meeting of a debate club? (Tanechka)

Youth is a motive force of our future nowadays. It is really important for young people to know what they can do to make their future better and what problems they should solve to make their life more comfortable. Firstly, we have such an important issue as education. Actually, I don't think that we have a bad system of education in our country, but it isn't perfect ~~too~~ either. Not all people can afford to study at universities. I think that our government is not interested in young specialists and don't give them any perspectives for a successful professional career in our country, so a lot of young people get only basic education, then get a professional education and go to work in their specialty. Some of them just run away to other countries, where education is more developed. Another big issue is spread of drugs. Nowadays it is one of the most discussed topic, when we talk about youth. A lot of different anti-drugs ~~problems~~ programmes are ~~working~~ carried out for solving this problem, but, actually, as we see, these programmes aren't very productive. What is more, young people need to learn to manage their time for studying and ~~having a rest~~ relaxation, spending time with their friends and family.

7. A lot of young people in Europe work in hospitals and kindergartens as volunteers. What do you think attracts them to this kind of work? (Anya Shiriton)

Today, in many European countries (and not only in Europe) there is a practice of volunteering. Why do people want to do this? Firstly, there is an interesting fact that the majority of volunteers do not prefer to work in their countries, but abroad. If you want to be a volunteer in any country, you should submit an application, wait for an answer and if you were selected, you need to pay only for a plane ticket. ~~And~~ after that, you'll live in normal conditions, you will be fed and you will have free time.

Based on this, I think that there are three reasons why people go to other countries to become volunteers:

- 1) to help people
- 2) to improve their language skills
- 3) to go to a foreign country without spending a lot of money.

8. Have you ever taken part in an international event? Why / Why not?

I have taken part in some international events. I'll write **about** some of them later because firstly I want to express why I took part in **it them** before and continue to do it now.

Firstly, it is a unique opportunity to represent your country on the world arena. Secondly, it is a chance to make your voice heard, your ideas expressed, your views shared. Thirdly, it could be your first but serious step on the way to sustainable future, the future you want.

Most adults think that we are too young to influence the world around, yes, we are young but passionate and eager to learn, to master our knowledge. We need to know how to talk to each other being tolerant and respectful. We must learn how to act wisely for the sake of future peace and stability. If we do realize what problems people face today, analyze them and think over all possible solutions, we will be strong enough to solve any problem.

The more we learn today, the better and brighter our future will be tomorrow – is my life motto.

That's the reason why I decided to take part in MUN conferences (Minsk International Model UN, Minsk Gymnasium Model United Nations Conference – Orgteam and SC Chair, Oldenburg MUN Conference), different trips to foreign countries etc. Assuming the role of a diplomat, representing a nation in a simulated session of a UN committee I have a chance to learn about foreign policy and seek solutions to the problems faced by the world community today. I do my best to respond to these problems by drafting resolutions and engaging in negotiation and debate. All of us are so different and working together we may communicate and argue, may agree and disagree but we learn to act as one strong team as our main goal is to influence global decisions and help those who are in need. Also, participation in MUNs teaches me not to be afraid to express my opinion and share it with others, it teaches me to speak up giving voice to my ideas! It teaches me to be responsible for every single decision as the future of our fragile world – my world depends on me. (Sivchenko)

**WOW! (T.Y.)**

It's not only mine, I wrote half of it in russian

9. Which youth organization would you recommend to join and why? (Ann Shishkina)

10. Have you ever joined a youth organization? Why / Why not? (Roma)

I have already joined **to** many youth organizations such **are as** BRSM; red cross and **etc others**. Mostly I join **to** volunteer organizations because **that these** organizations help and support people all over the world. In my opinion voluntary organizations play an important role in education and development of young people. they develop unselfishness in **the humans**. Young people learn to love their land and the world that surrounds them. People from **that such** organizations want to do something good for others. Also some people join youth organisations to spend their free time among the same people as they are. They think it will help them to find friends, **other destination their purpose** in **future** life, or just to have fun with **an** other young people.