 DGD Communications Video

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# Grace:

Hello everyone. Today I’m going to be talking about why I believe youth advocacy is important. To begin, I’ll talk a little bit about what advocacy means to me and why it’s even important in the first place. Advocacy is an opportunity to speak about issues that may be occurring in your own life or within your community. Advocacy can be about any social justice issue or even just your own personal needs. This is important as it can help create change, so that our society can be more inclusive or fulfill the needs of others that aren’t being met. Now, youth advocacy is when a young person speaks up on issues that they are passionate about. I believe this is important, as advocacy can take a lot of time and patience to perfect. It can be difficult speaking up for yourself or others, especially to authority figures who you may respect. I feel that if you start when you’re younger, you can hone your advocacy skills and when you get older, you’ll have much more experience and can feel more confident in your abilities. Young people also bring new ideas to the table. Our culture is constantly changing, and young people are often the ones who spark these changes. We see the world in a different way, as opposed to how older people may view it. As a result, young people can come up with new ideas and ways to solve solutions that old people may not have thought of already. I feel that from a young age, many youth are told that they don’t have any power. That they can’t fix the problems in our world. However, this idea is inaccurate. While youth may not have jobs or much influence in society— they can use their voices and speak up about important issues that they are passionate about to spread awareness. Advocacy can also help youth with their communication skills. It involves speaking to a lot of people and presenting the ideas in a way that is clear and concise. Advocacy can help improve leadership skills, as youth may decide to start their own groups to talk about a special social justice issue though social media or other platforms. Overall, youth advocacy is very important, and adults should encourage young people to speak up about issues in their own lives and communities. In doing so, adults can help youth pave the way for a brighter future where they feel that their voices are being heard and that they can make a difference in our world.