

How “Generation Z” is Making Their Voices Heard

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USATalk.org



[Photo by Kim I. Hartman via digitaljournal.com](#)

Students sit in darkened classrooms, listening to the panic-stricken gasps of their classmates around them. A code red has been called and no one is sure if it's real or a drill. Then they hear sounds of a gun firing and screams of other students and teachers. It's not a drill.

In February 2018, that horrifying scenario became a reality for students in Parkland, Florida. Unfortunately, they are far from the first to experience the horrors of gun violence.

A Haunting Timeline

- [April 20th, 1999](#): In Littleton, Colorado, two boys opened fire killing twelve students and one teacher and then themselves.
- [September 24th, 2003](#): In Coldspring, Minnesota, one boy shot and killed one student while gravely injuring another- who later went on to die at the hospital.
- [September 27th, 2006](#): In Bailey, Colorado, a 54-year-old man took six girls hostage. When the SWAT team sprang to action, the man shot and killed one of the girls and then himself.

- [December 14th, 2012](#): In Newtown, Connecticut, A 20-year-old man shot twenty children, six staff and faculty members, his own mother, and finally himself. On that day 28 people died.
- [January 23rd, 2018](#): In Benton, Kentucky, a 15-year-old boy opened fire killing two students and injuring eighteen others.
- [February 14th, 2018](#): In Parkland, Florida, 17 students lost their lives to the barrel of an AR-15 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Although extensive, the history of school shootings is not limited to the occurrences portrayed above.

Grief Transforms to Activism



[Photo by: Rhona Wise via newseuminstitute.org](#)

After the tragedy at [Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School](#) and the issues it brought to light, members of Generation Z are demanding to have their voices heard. As these students continue to grieve the loss of their peers, they have started to turn anger and sadness into making a difference. Their goal is to bring forth change so that a tragedy such as the one they experienced will never occur again. The slogan they've chosen to support their mission is ["Enough is Enough"](#) and it comes with a list of demands they are announcing to Congress. According to [CNN](#), this list includes the following:

- Banning of assault weapons
- In depth background checks to be administered before gun purchases

- Implementation of gun violence restraining orders that allows the court to revoke gun privileges from those who portray signs of violent behavior

National School Walkout



[Photo by Michael Reynolds via abcnews.go.com](https://abcnews.go.com)

Photo by Stephanie Peterson

Exactly one month after that fateful day, masses of high school students across the United States congregated to protest gun violence and raise awareness for the most recent victims. This event became known as the [“National School Walkout.”](#) At 10 a.m., students arose from their desks and marched out of their classrooms through the front doors of their respective schools. In order to pay respects to the 17 victims of the [Parkland Florida shooting](#), the first 17 minutes of the march were dedicated to silence and reflection.

National School Walkup



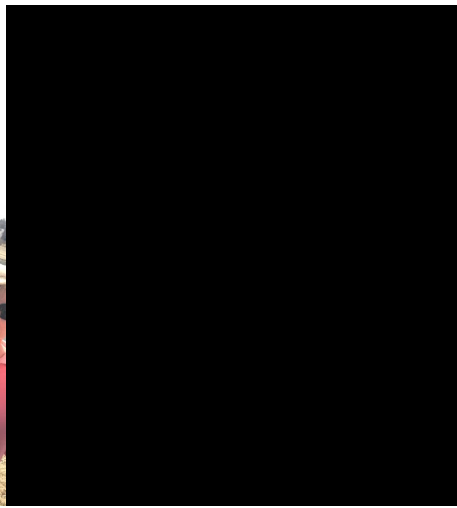
[Photos by Danielle Rae via facebook.com](#)

Not all students agree with the ideology behind the walkout and believe that the problem is not centered around guns. These students believe mental health or feelings of loneliness and despair are the root cause of the violence that has taken place. Their opinions have started a different type of movement known as the [National School Walkup](#), a that movement emphasizes reaching out to students who may need extra compassion or friendliness. In order to still respect the lives of the 17 victims, Arbor Preparatory High School gave their students 17 sticky notes to leave words of encouragement and positivity.

“Kids Will Be Kids” or “Kids Are Our Future?”



Photo by Stephanie Peterson



[Photo by Danielle Rae via facebook.com](#)

The media has emphasized the significance of youth in the National School Walkout. Some adults have also shown support for the students, as shown in the photos above. Despite a majority of Americans supporting the walkout, many “baby boomers” have not been supportive of student involvement within these protests. Adults opposing the protests often believe that participating in these protests is the equivalent of an unexcused absence. Others believe the protests are disruptive and rowdy. One student protester from a high school in Colorado reported that some adults shouted profanities towards the protestors as they marched. Some schools have threatened administrative action against the participating students, but this did not deter kids from standing up for this cause.

SEO Information

Longtail: Generation Z making their voices heard

Keywords: Parkland, National School Walkout, Gun Violence, Enough is Enough

Title Tag: “How Generation ‘Z’ is Making Their Voices Heard”

Meta Description: In light of the recent tragedies involving school shootings, many high schoolers are stepping forward trying to make a change. Check out how these young adults are transforming their grief into activism. This article breaks down the difference between the national school walk up and national school walk out.

Slug: usatalk.org/how-generation-z-is-making-their-voices-heard

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