



Parkland Massacre, Part III: Your Voice

Sophie Mae Berman, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

The Parkland shooting has left many students distraught with agony and fear. Classrooms, places of education, are now thought of in terms of what construction materials, location of chairs, and desks will protect against desecration. Students around the country have seen shooting after shooting devastate families. We think about the lives that were stolen from students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Yet, we have the ability to pursue our influence. It is our responsibility to act, to fight for gun control and medical measures that will combat mental illness. We hold the power to sustain change, to harvest legislation from dialogue, to protest, and to collaborate.

Here are 6 ways for you to make your voice heard:

- **March For Our Lives: March 24**
- Join thousands of activists to call for gun control on Boston Common
- **Register to Vote:**
Go to Abbot Hall where you can pick up a voter registration form at the town clerk's office (16 and 17-year-olds can pre-register, and seniors should fill out an absentee ballot if they are attending college out of state)
- **Participate in Upcoming Massachusetts Elections, including:**
 - United States Senate, House of Representatives, and Massachusetts Gubernatorial Election - November 6
 - Support local, state, and federal candidates by volunteering and campaigning for representatives who are dedicated to passing legislation that will combat gun violence
- **Raise money and donate to a gun control organization:**
 - Brady Campaign
 - Every Town For Gun Safety
 - Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- **Extend your engagement outside of school and bring it to college campuses after graduation. Amidst the classes, plans, jobs, clubs, checklists, texts and emails that demand your attention, do not abandon your drive for change. We can only achieve change with your efforts to continuously take hold of the responsibility and privilege to be the spokesperson of your own beliefs. Do not give up as we TOGETHER can accomplish change.**

The Flaws of Group Projects

Jillian Lederman
Sophomore Reporter

The objective of a schooling system is to educate its students in a variety of different subjects, the most obvious being math, science, history, and English. However, children are also sent to school to learn how to communicate and work well with others, skills necessary throughout all stages of life. It would seem that group projects, by requiring several students to collectively accomplish a task, are an ideal tool to introduce such talents. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Public schools mesh together students with a variety of different backgrounds, personalities, and capacities for learning and understanding new information. As such, it is inevitable that certain students will take on different roles in a group. Given a task to complete, an outgoing and conscientious personality type might take the lead while another student hesitates to speak up, and a careless or unconcerned individual neglects to offer any substantial input at all. When the project is completed, however, all students receive the same grade. A system is fundamentally flawed when it assigns identical rewards for non-identical merit. And yet, this appears to be the philosophy underlying many group projects.

Some would argue that group projects in school reflect real-world scenarios, but there is one defining quality that separates the two. In a work environment, employees earn different salaries. The amount of money earned is determined by each individual's position, hours, productivity, and many other factors. An employee that contributes less time and effort compared to a coworker will often earn less. If that employee neglects to work at a level that meets the requirements of an occupation, he or she will be fired.

While students do not earn money for their work in school, they do receive grades. At the high school level, every grade factors into each student's GPA, and by extension his or her probability of getting into certain colleges and successfully entering the workforce. I struggle to understand the justification for giving students with incredibly different skill sets and expectations for themselves the same grade for a joint project in which they clearly did not participate equally. Every student has different standards. While one person might be content to turn in a typo-filled group project, another who strives for perfection must spend hours making corrections while also struggling to avoid offending the original author.

I do not propose eliminating group projects entirely. Students must learn to work respectfully together in a school environment. Instead, we should give participants in group projects grades that correspond to the work that they completed. For example, students that write the paper for a project should be given better grades than those who simply color the poster. Perhaps this can be ascertained through evaluation forms completed by each group participant upon completion of the project. I also propose that teachers be lenient of situations in which the weak links of a group negatively impact the perception of the other members. No student should have to independently complete a workload meant for four because the other members of the group either fail to work at an acceptable level or refuse to participate entirely.

How our Music Craving Culture Made Ticket Prices Soar

Sophie Hauck,
Freshman Reporter

It's a rite of passage for every teenager to see their favorite artist live and in concert, a rite that, as the years go on, costs more and more to realize. Why do ticket prices rise? Blame yourself.

Less than 50 years ago, a concert ticket could go for ten dollars, a price that, taking inflation into consideration, amounts to approximately \$25 in 2018. While it's true that 21st century concert tickets can cost about \$25, typically tickets of that price are for smaller artists at smaller venues. At a venue like TD Garden, tickets can easily reach prices upwards of hundreds of dollars. The same can be said for Gillette, or any other major national stadium. Middle range venues like the Xfinity Center sell tickets ranging anywhere above or below \$100, however, tickets of the latter are often for the worst seats in the house. Even the concerts of up and coming artists can cost more than the hottest tickets of yesterday. In fact, industry experts report that ticket prices over the last 20 years alone have tripled.

Many blame the decline in record sales for the sharp increase in ticket prices. Years ago, artists made their money by selling records, promoting those records through touring. In the year 2000, CD revenues alone reached upwards of 13 billion dollars, yet, since then, the record industry has plummeted. Digital music has taken over, with streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music changing the industry even further. If a tour is now the means through which an artist must make the majority of their money, it would make sense that ticket prices have soared. However, record sales may not be the leading factor in this dilemma.

In the last decade, as tickets have continued to rise in price, the concert ticket industry has still reported record-shattering sales. So why do fans continue to buy? The answer might in fact be in the question itself. Fans continue to buy because they are fans. They want to see their favorite artists in concert, and they are willing to spend the money necessary to secure a seat.

So in short, concert prices rise because we let them. As long as people find it acceptable to shell out hundreds of dollars for one live performance, ticket prices will continue to rise. The ticket industry will only reach its capacity once consumers stop buying. Once they do, who knows how the music industry will evolve. In truth, the explanation as to why tickets prices have risen is multi-faceted. There are many factors that contribute to rising ticket prices, one of which is most definitely our society's demand for live performance. Time will tell how much longer it will be before this demand reaches its capacity, but as consumers, we do have a say in the prices of our goods. If we are unsatisfied with the price of concerts, boycott high priced tickets. Until this becomes common practice, seek out local shows and rising artists. After all, just as we listen to the music industry every time we press play, someday, the music industry will have to listen to us. Hopefully then, the price of tickets will finally change for the better.

Quote of the Week

"I have the nerve to walk my own way,
however hard, in my search for reality,
rather than climb upon the
rattling wagon of wishful illusions."

Zora Neale Hurston

League of Women Voters Forums

Are you a Marblehead High School student interested in politics or current events? If so, the Marblehead League of Women Voters and Marblehead High School are partnering to create forums based on the following topics...

1. Monday, March 19: "Conversation on How to Get Involved in Your Community"
2. Monday, April 2: "Truth in Media Panel"
3. Thursday, April 12: "Finding Your Voice"

These forum events will all start at 6:30 pm and be held in the MHS Library. If you are interested in creating or assisting a forum event, please see Ms. Antunes in the Main Office.

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