Elizabeth Anderson, 18, United States
Elizabeth is a lover of the world, with a passion for exploring global cultures, religions, politics, cuisines, and more. In her spare time, she is an avid reader, writer, dancer, and musician. Elizabeth enjoys working on creative and informative writing pieces and she hopes to major in international relations in the future.

Muskaan Arshad, 17, United States
Muskaan is a Junior in the state of Arkansas. She is active in political spheres, working as an intern for a National Congressional campaign and was recently chosen for the US Senate Youth Program. Her literary and research works have been internationally published, and her volunteer activities include raising awareness and educating others on the importance of equality and justice by writing for an international nonprofit.

Charlotte (Charlie) Ashford, 17, Australia
Charlie is a year 11 International Baccalaureate student from Brisbane, Australia. She aspires to be an author of both fiction and nonfiction.
Jonah Gottlieb, 17, United States

Sally Jain, 15, United States
Sally is a young, passionate writer seeking to affect others and connect with people through her writing. She is from California, US, and enjoys her days which her family and her friends. Most of her time is spent reading, watching movies or playing with her cat.

Lisha Ling, 17, Kuala Lumpur
Lisha is a seventeen-year-old writer from Kuala Lumpur. She currently studies sociology, English law and economics. She is interested in social, political and economic issues both on a macro and micro scale, including the occurrence of inequality, due to its universality and prevalence in all nations, societies and communities. Other areas of interest include history, literature, film, philosophy and politics. She is also interested in investigating other social phenomena relating to mental illness and their greater ramifications, international conflicts and the effect of media on the lifestyle of the general population.
Allison Lowe, 16, United States
Allison is a high school writer from the San Francisco Bay Area. Her work has previously appeared in Polyphony Lit, The Loud Journal, and Same Faces Collective, and she has been recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and Hollins University. She is currently a 2020 fellow for both Civics Unplugged and Write the World’s Civics in Action program.

Joseph Mullen, 18, United States
Joseph is a high school senior living in Weston, Florida. He was born in Doha, Qatar, and his mother and father grew up in South Africa and Italy, respectively, so he has acquired an international perspective on many issues, having traveled to over 30 countries. Joseph has also interned on several political campaigns, created a forum reaching out to young leaders across Africa, and leads his school’s Model United Nations team. His favorite author is either Kurt Vonnegut or Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and he enjoys writing essays and opinion pieces, watching documentaries, canvassing for political campaigns, and relaxing with his two dogs, Khaya and Thanda.

Amy Nam, 15, Canada
Amy is currently a sophomore in high school, lives in Toronto, Ontario, where she overindulges in Korean cuisine and freezes in the cold weather. Her interests include sleeping, playing volleyball, and making her grandparents laugh. Her stress level hasn’t reached zero since she was ten. She occasionally laughs at her brother’s jokes, and when the stars align, she attempts yoga.
Reema Nannapaneni, 14, United States
Reema is a high schooler from North Texas with a passion for global sustainability. Her dream is to one day work as a surgeon for Doctors Without Borders. In her free time, Reema likes to read about social issues, watch Marvel movies, and on occasion, sit on her roof and watch the sunset.

Arin Parsa, 12, United States
Arin is a Davidson Young Scholar with deep interests in history, politics, law, public policy, and science. Founder of TeenOpinions.org, a blog for teen voices and Teens for Vaccines @teensforvaxx, teen advocacy to combat vaccine hesitancy.

Erika Peterson, 16, United States
Erika is a 16-year-old high school student and aspiring journalist. She is the Arts and Entertainment editor for her school newspaper, The Southerner, and enjoys writing about social justice. Outside of writing, Erika loves cross country skiing, and can be found outside on the coldest of days.
Chloe Sow, 14, United States
Chloe ’24 is a current middle school student and will soon be in high school. She is an avid reader and writer from Washington and enjoys debating and learning about current issues. In her spare time, Chloe likes to binge-watch Netflix, listen to music, and get caught up in a new book, especially in the genre of mysteries and thriller.

Maxwell Surprenant, 16, United States
Maxwell, a youth national reporter, covers art, sports, and politics. He worked as a Kid Reporter for Sports Illustrated Kids and Scholastic News Kids Press Corps, for which he interviewed former First Lady Michelle Obama, former VP and presidential candidate Joe Biden, former First Daughter Chelsea Clinton, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Pulitzer Prize author David McCullough, and journalist Anderson Cooper. Maxwell served as the youngest reporter covering the 2016 Presidential Campaign Trail from the New Hampshire Primary to the Democratic National Convention, and now he’s following the 2020 Presidential Elections for LA Times/HS Insider. He also serves as Co-Founder and Creative Director of Catching Joy, Inc., a nonprofit which promotes volunteerism and acts of kindness beginning with kids, teens, and their families.

Claire Swadling, 16, United States
Claire is a student journalist, activist, and writer with a passion for science. She is an award-winning filmmaker, having interviewed government officials, think thank experts, and academic professors for her short films on political topics. She is also the founder and president of Health. Right. Now. (healthrightnow.org), a nonprofit that aims to increase awareness of public health issues with a special focus on youth advocacy. Additionally, Claire has garnered various accolades in writing and biology competitions. In her spare time, she enjoys making collages out of food magazines and hopelessly pursuing a career in rap music.
Mili Thakrar, 14, United Kingdom
Mili is a London-based student, interested particularly in writing on fairy tales, fantasy and dystopian fiction. Such interests stem from her fascination with magic and the unknown worlds of the universe. Besides the literary arts, she likes to be active, enjoying competitive sports – especially badminton – and playing the violin. Her parents certainly appreciate that! Ultimately Mili wishes to take her writing to the next level, and engage with as broad an audience as possible.

Stella Weston, 14, New Zealand
Stella is a fiction writer and has been published in a literary journal, Toitoi, five times. She has read her stories on a platform of national radio, with one story anthologised and another translated into Spanish. Several of her stories have won or been commended in competitions; her novel excerpt won the international NaNoWriMo for her age in 2019. She has written book reviews for a national website and was also asked to write a children's book about mental health which is set to hopefully come out later this year. This will be part of the “I Am Hope” movement, raising funds for children and teenagers to have access to free counseling. While her writing to date has been mainly fiction, as she has become interested in global issues, she is keen to make a difference through journalism.

Brandon Yam, 16, United States
Brandon is junior in high school and part of one of two sets of triplets in his family in Bayside, N.Y. Since 2018, he has written anecdotal ledes for his school newspaper to combine his passions of journalism and creative writing. At school, he is national/world news editor of FLHSNews, editor in chief of Humans of Francis Lewis Magazine and vice president of creative writing club. Outside of school, he interned for New York State Assembly members Yuh-Line Niou and Ron Kim, the news site City Limits and the podcast Miseducation. Yam has won honors for his work, including Best Feature at 16th Annual NYC High School Journalism Conference at Baruch College and Honorable Mention in The New York Times’ Second Annual “Show Us Your Generation” Photo Contest for Teenagers and in Scholastic Art & Writing 2019 Awards in photography. Now he can be found crying over deadlines, with plans to pursue a career in education reporting.

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Brielle Young, 17, United States
Brielle, 17, was born in Wellington, Florida. She first fell in love with writing when she was in the second grade and she enjoys sharing her passion with others. Brielle serves as a staff writer for the Entertainment Section and Copy Editor for the News Section of her school’s newspaper, The Bronco Beat. She also edits works for a high school literary magazine, Polyphony Lit. She is active in her school and community, participating in her school’s Bronco Ambassadors, National Honor Society, and Key Club. After high school, she hopes to major in Journalism or Telecommunications with the hopes of becoming an Investigative Reporter or a White House Correspondent. In her free time, Brielle enjoys playing drums, listening to rock and metal music, cuddling with her dog, Wilee, and watching films, as she is a big horror film fanatic.

May Zheng, 16, United States
May is 16 years old and has affinities for spontaneity, painting, biking, music, and thought-provoking conversations. These lend themselves to frequent epiphanies, late nights, and what she considers to be a quietly fulfilling time on earth.

Veronica, 17, United States
Veronica is an artist, musician, dancer, and writer. She enjoys writing poetry, specifically. Born and raised on an island in Alaska, Veronica is passionate about environmental issues regarding the safety of the wildlife on the island. Her strong interest in social justice is what has drawn her to Civics. She enjoys writing poetry and research essays, as well as on politically controversial topics. She enjoys opening up discussion on various subjects. Veronica is passionate about the arts and enjoys making art as well as writing about it.