

### Conclusion Extract

**Title:** Sign of the Times: Despite perceptions of youth shallowness and apathetic political engagement, moral conservatism from government institutions has prompted a deeply engaged youth population.

The adverse representation of young people in traditional media has impacted the inclusion of young people in the dialogue of formal politics, as government institutions dismiss young led protests surrounding key social issues. Heightened politicisation of macro media sources and platforms have shaped young people's socialisation, as social media establishes the ability to explore differing worldviews. My PIP examines the complexities of why the negative perception of young people has led to the dismissal of their political perspectives, and how this has resulted in an invested youth population in politics.

An investigation was undertaken into the hypothesis, "*Despite perceptions of youth shallowness and apathetic political engagement, moral conservatism from government institutions has prompted a deeply engaged youth population.*" The hypothesis has been proven accurate to a great extent, due to the significant increase in young people participant and engagement with recent political movements, and seeming to continue to escalate, as shown throughout primary and secondary research. This subject has been proven inherently influenced by the socialisation of younger generations, Millennials and Gen Z, in social media and online platforms to have been a critical part of creating the in-depth interest and vocal point of view in formal politics. Thus, despite traditional media's portrayal of young people as 'shallow' and 'apathetic' and protesting seen as a generational rite of passage in adolescence, today's young people are turning to alternative methods of contributing to politics.

Various evidence was collected and utilised through four quantitative and qualitative methods of research. I conducted a questionnaire<sup>[2]</sup> which was extremely important in obtaining an understanding of generalised opinions of the current rise in young people being politically vocal. However, there was a location and gender bias present as it only encapsulated a meso level analysis. A content analysis<sup>[3]</sup> further explore the hypothesis, through the examination of Scott Morrison's speech in Australia parliament and Tweets by Maxime Bernier, which presented valuable insight into the moral conservatism in government establishments which oppose young people's political out cry. Nevertheless, it must be noted that this shows a small sample of the political figures and was bias due to its rather subjective analysis. To add

academic perspective on the topic, I interviewed Professor Robyn Broadbent<sup>[4]</sup> and Dr. Steward Jackson.<sup>[5]</sup> These interviews provided excessive understanding of academic and qualitative perspectives on young people's interaction with politics. Nonetheless, these interviews are limited through their interpretation of the questions asked. Furthermore, a micro focus group<sup>[6]</sup> was undertaken to outline varying perspectives and understandings of the future of physical protesting and the role that social media has in increased social movements. Yet, this only highlighted a micro scale study and age bias as all the respondents were in the age bracket of young people.

Through development of this PIP, I was able to demonstrate and adopt a more critical lens when discerning the media, whilst understanding how the media has shaped the view of young people in the political sphere, leading to the rejection of young people's political outlooks in the wider society.

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[1] Jennings-Edquist, G. 2019. Young people care deeply about politics (even if they can't get excited about the election) - ABC Life. *ABC News*. [online] 5 Apr. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/life/do-young-people-care-about-politics/10905604> [Accessed 13 Jun. 2020].

[2] Questionnaire, See appendix A

[3] Content analysis, See appendix B and C

[4] Interview, See appendix D

[5] Interview, See appendix E

[6] Focus group, See appendix F

[7] Npr.org. 2019. *NPR Choice page*. [online] Available at: <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/23/763452863/transcript-greta-thunbergs-speech-at-the-u-n-climate-action-summit> [Accessed 13 Jun. 2020].