

**The New York Times Learning Network 2018 Student Editorial Contest Finalists**  
(in alphabetical order by title)

**Winners**

“A Generation Z’s Take on the Social Media Age” by Elena Quartararo, age 17  
“Accountability-Based Testing is Broken” by Alan Peng, age 17  
“Civil Obedience” by Anushka Agarwal, age 16  
“Dinner Table Politics” by Bridget Smith, age 15  
“Is It Actually Smart to Sit Still?” by Hannah Amell, age 15  
“Is True Crime as Entertainment Morally Defensible?” by Rachel Chestnut, age 17  
“Politics and the Olympics” by Joanne Yang, age 15  
“The 4th R: Real Life” by Jason Schnall, age 16  
“The Case for Lowering the Voting Age” by Kathryn Zaia, age 14  
“Whitewashing History: The Danger of Sanitizing Dr. King’s Legacy” by malavika.kannan, age 17

**Runners-Up**

“A 4.0 GPA and I Still Know Nothing” by Rachel Levine, age 17  
“A Peaceful Passing” by Elina Niyazov, age 19  
“A Prodigy for Your Progeny” by Kaiser Ke, age 16  
“Abolish the Office of First Lady to Put Ladies First” by Catherine Lin, age 17  
“America’s ‘Boys in Blue’ Can be Green Too” by Akshay Raj, age 15  
“‘Corrective Statements’ Don’t Fix Anything” by McKenna Tanner, age 15  
“Do Asians Play a Role on the Great White Way?” by Sungchin Eraso, age 16  
“Driving: It’s Going Out of Style” by Emma Chiu, age 15  
“Fairness in Education” by Xiaolin Ding, age 17  
“I CAN’T HEAR YOU: Echo Chambers in America” by Kevin Tang, age 16  
“Is Trump’s Wall a Solution or Just Another Tourist Attraction?” by Lechen Dong, age 18  
“It is Time to Abolish the Electoral College” by Joseph Saber, age 16  
“It’s Time to Legalize the World’s Oldest Profession” by Ashlyn DesCarpentrie, age 17  
“Let Children of Color Be Characters, Too” by Sandra Chen, age 16  
“Making Room for All Chinese in China’s Capital” by Yuxin Long, age 17  
“Sex Ed and Abortion in America: Hypocrisy at Its Finest” by Sylvia Hollander, age 17  
“The Future of the #MeToo Movement Through the Eyes of a 17 Year Old Boy” by Charles Gstalder, age 17  
“The Net Neutrality Repeal: An Attack on Free Expression and Communication” by Ainsley Tia Lim, age 15  
“The Price of Preserving Patriarchy in India” by Uma Bhat, age 15  
“The Trouble With Teen Movies” by Olivia Newman, age 18  
“Trivializing Mental Illness Makes Me Depressed” by Lola Byers-Ogle, age 15  
“Turning the Page to a New Era” by Casey Webb, age 16  
“Under Black Cloaks” by Bincheng Mao, age 16  
“Vice for Vice” by Eugene Hong, age 15  
“Want to End the Shortage of Priests? Ordain Women.” by Elizabeth Meisenzahl, age 16  
“Why We Must Act on #MeToo” by Bhargavi Garimella, age 17

**Honorable Mentions**

“A New Gender of Birth Control” by Corinne Lee, age 17  
“A Non-Partisan Evaluation of Abortion Restrictions” by Nesim Nahmiyas, age 16  
“A Plea to America” by Carter Sargent, age 17  
“A Small Gesture to Address Women’s Rights in China” by Athena Song, age 16

## **Honorable Mentions (continued)**

"Affordable National Parks for All" by Ayden Nichol, age 17  
"An Invisible Dilemma" by Jennifer Zheng, age 16  
"Are Cryptocurrencies Currencies?" by Graham Everhart, age 16  
"Beyond Selfies: Technology as an Instrument for Change" by Haley Choi, age 17  
"Chivalry Is on Life Support: Here's Why We Should Pull the Plug" by Mia DeAngelo, age 16  
"Do Black Lives Matter in the #NeverAgain Movement" by Penelope Martindale, age 16  
"Does the Women's March Matter?" by Serena Lin, age 17  
"Don't Hold Those With Down Syndrome Down" by Hannah Yelle, age 16  
"Google's Absence of Search Neutrality Needs to Change" by Taylor Goodspeed, age 13  
"He Who Must Not Be Named" by Zhu Mingyu, age 17  
"How DeAndre Ayton Changed the Game (And Why He Shouldn't)" by Luke Park, age 16  
"Keeping Safe: Ensuring the Parkland Shooting Never Happens Again" by Elliott Notrica, age 14  
"Medical Marijuana Must Be Legalized in the United States" by Jack Ledbetter, age 16  
"More Wealth Doesn't Have to Mean More Meat" by Mingxi.Yin, age 17  
"NCAA Basketball Is Making Millions, but Players Live in Poverty" by Matthew Varughese, age 15  
"Orca Entertainment Is Intolerable" by Lindsay Michaud, age 17  
"Redefining Manhood" by Koorosh Nabatian, age 17  
"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Roast" by OliviaJ, age 17  
"Teenagers: The Modern Cassandra" by Olivia Otremba, age 15  
"The Belt, the Road and Us" by Miles Stella, age 17  
"The Broken Nature of College Admissions" by India Menon, age 18  
"The Case for the Modern Philistine" by Maria Mendoza Blanco, age 15  
"The Cyber Threat" by Akshay Manglik, age 14  
"The Fight Against Segregation" by Pei Chao Zhuo, age 17  
"The Hashtag Misnomer of the Anti-Gun Violence Movement" by Swathi Kella, age 17  
"The Line Between Story and Ad Is Dangerously Murky" by Kristina Vakhman, age 19  
"The Neutral Net: A Human Right" by Ryan Kovarovics, age 17  
"The Perpetual Plastic Problem" by Alisha Zhu, age 16  
"The Problematic Filter of Objective Educational Standards" by Troy Chartier-Vignapiano, age 17  
"Vacating in Vain" by Kevin Wang, age 16  
"When Women Work the World" by Diya Jain, age 13  
"Why Aren't More Girls Pursuing Careers in Computing and Tech Fields?" by Stuti Arora, age 16  
"Why Immunize?" by Reed Shepherd, age 15  
"Working Girls: Empowered or Endangered?" by Marlee Moe, age 15

## **Round 3 Finalists**

"#Me Too: Hypocrisy in Hollywood" by Emily Arscott, age 16  
"Against Making the Military Straight Again" by Zoe Sailer, age 19  
"Allowing Social Media to Determine Self-Worth" by Christina Dafniotis, age 16  
"America: The Land of the Free and the Home of the Guns" by Julia Frankel, age 14  
"Baby Steps" by Mia Oscarsson, age 16  
"Ban Roundup: We're Poisoning Ourselves and Nature" by Lorenzo Wolczko, age 13  
"Cheers or Jeers?" by Cooper Meyer, age 17  
"Climate's Ticking Clock" by Abigail Gordy, age 16  
"Dear Boys, Catcalling Isn't Going to Make Me Like You" by Amara Harper, age 15  
"Do Trophies Make or Break You?" by Dassi Mayerfeld, age 15  
"Don the Rose-Colored Glasses" by Jianna Llanto, age 17  
"Education Is Power" by Daisy Pomponio, age 15  
"Encouraging Destructive Behavior" by Katie Schacht, age 16

### Round 3 Finalists (continued)

- "English Is Not Enough" by Mia Glass, age 16
- "Equal Writes" by Maeve Miller, age 16
- "Failure is Not an Option-- Unless You're a Public School" by Emma Olmsted, age 16
- "For Tweet's Sake Twitter, Stop Trump" by Sam Gulachenski, age 15
- "Freedom Is Freedom" by Caroline Helm, age 15
- "Generation Lonely" by Rachel Zimmerman-Diaz, age 17
- "Grades: The Enemy of Learning" by Hayley Hanson, age 14
- "Half Child, Every Child" by Maya Mau, age 15
- "Heroes and Villains: Bias in the Media" by Kemmerly Chipongian, age 15
- "If We Could Stop Caring About Sports So Much, That Would Be Great" by Joel Duzha, age 16
- "In Fake News We Trust" by Olivia Erin Steele, age 17
- "Is Catcalling a Form of Complimenting?" by Aria Nair, age 17
- "Is Low Voter Turnout Among Young People a Result of Political Apathy or Disillusionment?" by Audrey McMillion, age 17
- "Is State Mandated Standardized Testing Meant to Benefit Test Takers or Test Makers?" by Alexis McKinnon, age 16
- "Kids These Days" by Avery Little, age 16
- "Let's Not Arm Teachers With Guns, Let's Arm Them with Dogs" by Carly Marshall, age 14
- "New Guns, Old Regulations" by Maya Bentovim, age 17, and Ishita Jamar, age 17
- "Parents' High Expectations Are Harming Their Children" by Hadas Feygin, age 17
- "Private Prisons: The Cataract on Justice's Eyes" by Blake Epstein, age 16
- "Recess at School" by Jessica Perez, age 17
- "Returning the Favor" by Katherine Steinmeyer, age 18
- "Safety and Education: Two Things Schools and Lawmakers Try to Keep From Teens" by Bella Simmons, age 16
- "Should Marijuana Be Legal?" by Jack Widor, age 16
- "Student's Passion, Student's Choice" by Aarsha Shah, age 14
- "Taking a Stand on Gun Control" by Charlotte, age 14
- "Technology in the Classroom: Too Much, Too Soon" by Blaise Siefer, age 16
- "The COALition to Ruin the Appalachian Region" by Lyndsie McFarlane, age 18
- "The Detrimentality of Predatory Lending Practices" by Bill Tang, age 17
- "The Dirty Truth" by Cole Politte, age 14
- "The Earth Has Had Enough. Have We?" by Jenny Shi, age 16
- "The F Word" by Angela Reinhart, age 15
- "The Forgotten Patients" by Nisha Andrews, age 15
- "The One Thing Single-Sided History Lessons Teach: Racism" by Nicole Farina, age 16
- "The Right to Bear Arts" by Arianna Whitehair, age 18
- "The Truth to Little White Lies" by Sophia Nisivoccia, age 17
- "The Voice of the Youth" by Andrew Wetty, age 17
- "Timeout for Adults" by Maurice Lemons, age 14
- "Trump Destroys Obama's Progress With Transphobic Policy Change" by Beatriz Thompson, age 14
- "Twitter, Helping Trump Delegitimize the Presidency" by Hannah Altmann, age 16
- "We Need to Stop Poisoning Girls Against Science" by Lorna Mathias, age 17
- "What Should Be the Purpose of Prisons?" by Kimie Nevarez, age 16
- "When Does Borrowing Become Stealing?" by Ronnie W., age 16
- "Why Schools Need to Acknowledge LGBT History" by Maia Schwallie, age 14
- "Will America Lead a Solar Power Revolution?" by Molly Feffer, age 17
- "Will Liberal Arts Go Extinct With the Trend of STEM?" by Sarah Bradford, age 17
- "Words: The Weapons of Tomorrow" by Emma Anousheh Azhan, age 14