

My name is Harmony Belle Devoe, and I'm a member of the Vermont State Youth Council. I live in Warren, Vermont. I use she/her pronouns.

I care about raising awareness about these 2 main issues; (1) Protecting and taking care of the environment; specifically by encouraging others to live a life that won't destruct the planet and (2) stopping the use of racist, sexist, and homophobic microaggressions. A lot of Vermonters, even young Vermonters, are not well educated or aware of these issues and inequalities.

Some people aren't taught how to live an eco-friendly lifestyle. A lot of people (including kids) also don't know if they are carrying out, or even experiencing, a microaggression. I believe that for Vermont, and the world, to be a better place for youth, everyone needs to be fully educated on how their behavior can impact others, the world, and our future.

We need to inspire others (especially youth) to be changemakers and take action. Even if they don't care or want to try, they should at least be fully educated in these subjects. I believe that schools would benefit from creating engaging programs on important issues regarding how to treat people and the planet. Schools should also provide opportunities for kids and their families to take action in these matters.

Students would benefit from hands-on activities and field trips to learn about these issues. Watch videos and documentaries, bringing in speakers, reading and listening to stories, and having conversations with open dialogue are other possible ways to increase education on important topics.,

Conversations between youth, family, and friends should be encouraged to further educate and open peoples minds.

I believe that for Vermont to be a better place for youth, everyone should be educated in issues concerning the future of people and the planet.

Thank you.