



Photo by Mike Cohen on Flickr Creative Commons; Modified by Mike Roy

By Mike Roy & Ann Terese MacDonald

As a young adult in 2019, there are many avenues in which political content can seep into your consciousness. In an overly saturated world of digital media, social media, instant celebrities, and the power to amplify your voice for millions to hear, it can be daunting to develop a political identity that feels honest to your own experiences.

Democracy 2.0 is an issue of the YA Hotline dedicated to understanding the complexities of building a political identity in today's modern world. Global issues are explored in a local context, via the communities that we interact with both in real life and on the Internet.

In an era of streaming and memes, teenagers are expected to understand the contexts of the media in which they consume, share and publish in the world, when in reality, they are just as likely in need of guidance as the generations before them. Teens are not only using the internet to consume music, entertainment and pop culture but also as a way of participating in political engagement on local and global levels. In the online world, the lines between celebrity culture, politics and global issues can become obscured.

This instalment of the YA Hotline aims to educate librarians, professionals and adults about how these issues intersect, so they can better serve and relate to the young adults in their lives. This issue provides a range of compelling content, including informative articles on a wide breadth of topics, a program planning guide, and recommendations for books and resources to support engaged and informed youth.

Being political does not necessarily mean knowing who the latest candidate is or identifying the party with which your favourite celebrity endorses. Being political means developing values and decisions that feel true to your identity, and finding the causes in which you are able to act upon these feelings. As adults who are not as far removed from that position as we would believe, it is our job to provide our teenagers with the access, tools and information to make these decisions for themselves in a healthy and open manner.

References:

Cohen, M. (2013). *Voting share* [Photograph]. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2Iazz>

