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Overcoming Apathy

A troubling idea seemed to infiltrate my mind just a short time ago. As I sat in my gray standardized school desk, this notion wreaked havoc in my skull as the clock's hands whirled so monotonously on their circular journey. Our class had almost finished briskly scanning an article about many current high school students who are plagued by a general sense of apathy. It was then, towards the end of junior year that I knew I didn't quite fit that mold of complacency and that something needed to be done to overcome the dismal mentality associated with my generation.

After the familiar song of the school bell echoed as it did every day, I shook out of my reflective and brooding trance. The contagious idea prompted me to venture into the jungle of my own mind, desperately hunting for a viable solution to the problem others have found within American's youth. I began to sketch out a map that would attempt to discredit this opinion that young people are characterized by nothing more than indifference. This pivotal first step did not come easy. I spent what seemed like ages surfing the internet and talking with friends and teachers for ideas and finally I came across a non-profit organization headquartered in the bustling metropolis of NYC: DoSomething.org. Youthful and fun, this organization was the "X" on the map that I had been searching for so laboriously. I distinctly remember eagerly surveying the engaging and informative homepage of the DoSomething.org website like a child on Christmas morning. I was extremely impressed. Yet, I felt as though I was only given a small taste of the entire idea and I craved the opportunity to make more of an impact to disprove the belief that the country's youth is so apathetic.

Then, like out of a magician's top hat, the idea to start Green High School's very own DoSomething.org club emerged. I teamed up with one of my positive and motivated friends to build the foundation of the group. The overall purpose of the club, as outlined by the DoSomething.org Company is to promote student-led social activism in the community. To begin, my partner and I had to pitch our idea for the club to the administration at our school. When we slowly slipped into the principal's office, I could feel the sweat beginning to gather under my arms. At first, I stumbled over my words but swiftly gained the confidence to impress the stern and authoritative figures. Although the social change club was finally formally approved, there was still much work to be done.

Presently, the club has blossomed into a beacon for social activism in our school. After a grassroots recruiting campaign, the Green High School DoSomething.org Club is nearly fifty members strong. Participating in activities that impact countless people like volunteering at the local food bank, conducting a blue jeans drive, and starting a vast recycling system at our school is a major focus of the new club. Certainly, the club has cultivated a considerable level of disdain for apathy and love for action.

At Green High School, the students of the Do Something Club, as led by my friend and I, have led the charge in overcoming the lethargy and indifference of the typical teenage life. The club culture truly allows students to create a fellowship around volunteerism and an excitement for helping others. Thus, that terrible idea that had consumed my thoughts that one day near the end of junior year surely had a profound effect on my perception of the world. I am so grateful that on that warm day in mid-May last year, the clock hypnotized me into finding the solution to the apparent youth acceptance of apathy, and at least in my small corner of the globe, I honestly feel I have found the "X" on the map.