



NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY

## 2021 STATE NAS SUMMIT **TEEN SUMMIT** ~ February 27, 10:00 am

Please review the topics selected for the Teen Summit discussion:

### 1. **Remote education: is the quality the same as traditional education? How is COVID-19 affecting academic performance?** - *Topic Leader: NAS State President Arianna Jones*

During the last year, our lives have changed tremendously because of the COVID-19 virus. Many activities have been halted or postponed because of these unprecedented times, while others have been adjusted to reflect the current climate. For instance, teaching has been moved online, in a new and unique way, forcing many students who were used to an in-person learning style to adjust to online or remote learning *via* Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc. Such a big change begs the question: Is the quality of remote education the same as in-person or traditional education?

- Do you as an individual feel that Zoom learning is real learning, or do you feel that schools are more focused on you passing rather than learning?
- How do you think remote learning will affect your future major or career? Do you feel adequately prepared to go to college or into the workforce in the future?
- Do you feel that teachers are more mindful of other important aspects of our lives, like mental health, family circumstances, etc., when giving out assignments online? Why or why not?

### 2. **To what extent were the actions of the police during the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests different from those during the Capitol Hill riot/insurrection, and what should be done about the double standard?** - *Topic Leader: NAS State Treasurer Mariah Jones*

In 2013, the BLM movement started from the injustice that occurred when Trayvon Martin was murdered in Sanford, Florida, and expanded to the UK and Canada as a demand to eradicate the racial hatred and violence inflicted on Black communities, and as an uplifting expression of cultural pride in being Black. The BLM movement was significant in 2020 following the unjust killing of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor. These cases sparked diverse BLM protests across America and the world, with the goal of seeking justice for Black people. However, BLM protestors were often met with physical force by the police and the national guard.

After the 2020 presidential election, Donald Trump mistakenly felt the election process was rigged and unjust. Thus, two weeks before the inauguration of President Biden, he called for armed supporters—including white supremacists, conspiracy theorists, and Neo-Nazis—to storm the Capitol to stop the certification of Joe Biden's victory. The resulting riot, which was broadcast around the world, put Capitol employees in danger and generated concern that the rioters were not met with the same violent response as BLM protestors.

- Why do you think that these terrorists had a different interaction with police than the protestors of the BLM movement?
- Protestors said that Trump deliberately told them to seize the Capitol. What do you think was Trump's overall plan, and how does it align with Trump's general message to these supporters that engenders their support?
- Do you think the way that Trump handled the police force in the BLM movement contributed to his loss of the election?

### 3. **What are the main causes of toxic masculinity, and how can we eliminate it?** - *Topic Leader: NAS South Florida President George Pickens*

We all know that in today's society the media plays a huge role in shaping some of our thoughts and ideas. The media is at least partially responsible for perpetuating the idea that men should suppress their emotions and demonstrate their masculinity through dominance, aggression, and the lack of expression—a concept commonly referred to as "toxic masculinity." Oftentimes, this results in a buildup of emotions and can even lead to mental health issues for men.

- What are the main causes of toxic masculinity?
- How can we eliminate toxic masculinity?