Virginia Department of Education

**2021 United States Senate Youth Program Application**

Thank you for applying for the United States Senate Youth Program. Please read carefully the application directions and qualifications for the program before completing the application.

Completed essay questions must be typed (handwritten applications will NOT be accepted).

Directions:

1. **Type** essay question responses.
2. Scan application and essay responses to email to: [vdoe.hss@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vdoe.hss@doe.virginia.gov) on or before Friday, December 11, 2020. Take a stance and provide evidence. Choose one of the following prompts and write an essay of at least 500 words making a clear claim and providing evidence to support your claim.
3. Discuss a policy proposal or cause championed by either one of your two U.S. Senators during the past five years. What resources and capital has the Senator devoted to that issue? Has the Senator’s interest and efforts had an impact on that issue? Why or why not?
4. Does globalization have a positive or negative effect on the national economy?
5. Define political activism. How do rules/laws/morals and values affect your own political activism? How do you judge whether your activism has been successful or not?
6. Should the costs of election campaigns be capped?
7. Should the electoral college exist?
8. What do you feel will be the role of young people in addressing the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and related issues, such as healthcare, mental health, raising inequalities and reduced employment opportunities in both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States?
9. Discuss political civility and communication in 2020. How have the two been impacted by COVID-19, the influence of social media and social unrest? How do you feel we can diffuse the polarity of our current political environment?