

File 13 p. 141 • What the real Snowden says at the end of the movie

The new Oliver Stone film *Snowden* mixes fiction and fact to retell the story of Edward Snowden's journey out of the shadows of intelligence¹ to expose some of America's biggest secrets. And as the film comes to a close, viewers will know that the real Snowden is perfectly at peace with that.

Snowden makes a brief cameo² at the end to put his mark on the film, delivering a passionate speech from the second home of his Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucharena. "I am incredibly fortunate," Snowden says. [...] "Without the information to start a public debate, we're lost. You know, the people being able to question our government and hold it accountable—that's the principle that the United States of America was founded on. If we want to protect our national security, we should be protecting that principle," the Snowden character played by Gordon-Levitt says. "I believe that if nothing changes, more and more people all over the world will come forward. Whistleblowers and journalists but also, regular citizens. And when those in power try to hide by classifying³ everything, we will call them out⁴ on it. And when they try to scare us into sacrificing our basic human rights, we won't be intimidated, and we won't give up, and we will not be silenced." [...] "When I left Hawaii, I lost everything. I had a stable life, stable love, family, future. And I lost that life, but, I've gained a new one, and I am incredibly fortunate," Snowden says. "And I think the greatest freedom that I've gained is the fact that I no longer have to worry about what happens tomorrow, because I'm happy with what I've done today." [...] Snowden has lived under asylum in Russia for more than three years. He left his home in Hawaii with thousands of top-secret documents he gave to journalists in Hong Kong before fleeing to Moscow, where he remains to this day.

businessinsider.com, 2016

1. surveillance
2. short appearance
3. making secret
4. denounce them

File 13 p. 142 • By any media necessary

There is a widespread¹ perception that the foundations of American democracy are dysfunctional, public trust in core² institutions is eroding, and little is likely to emerge from traditional politics that will shift³ those conditions. Youth are often seen as emblematic of this crisis—frequently represented as uninterested in political life, ill-informed about current-affairs, and unwilling to register and vote.

By Any Media Necessary offers a profoundly different picture of contemporary American youth. Young men and women are tapping into the potential of new forms of communication such as social media platforms, spreadable videos and memes, remixing the language of popular culture, and seeking to⁴ bring about political change—by any media necessary.

Before the world can change, people need the ability to imagine what alternatives might look like and identify paths by which change can be achieved. Exploring new forms of political activities and identities emerging from the practice of participatory culture, *By Any Media Necessary* reveals how these shifts in communication have unleashed a new political dynamism in American youth.

2018, NYU Press

1. common

2. central

3. change

4. attempt

Activism has no age.

Young adults are often told that they cannot enact¹ real social or political change. They are too young, too inexperienced, too naive, or too idealistic for the serious work of activism. But as the millennial generation has shown time and time again, young adults hold wide potential in the realm of activism and social justice work. [...]

A recent example is the massive Boston Public School walkout in early March. Over 2,000 students walked out of classes and marched through downtown Boston to protest proposed budget cuts to the city's school system. The proposed \$20 million cuts would debilitate² the budgets of schools across the city, forcing them to cut certain academic programs. Middle and high school students alike raised their voices against these injustices, creating a demonstration that forced both Bostonian witnesses and the leaders of the city's education system to consider the damages of the proposed cuts. [...]

Protesters spread their message on Twitter using the hashtag #bpswalkout, summoning³ students across the city to walk out of their classes on Monday morning. While adults often cite social media as evidence of this generation's narcissism and laziness, social networks can invaluablely unite people in a common cause. Millennial activism is distinguished by its online accessibility.

Yet its reliance on social media leads many critics to claim that young people engage only in "Facebook activism," in which they share or re-tweet articles and posts but do not actually contribute to the cause. While this is a valid concern, millennial activism cannot be discounted based on its online presence.

As the past few years have shown, youth activists have a wealth of untapped⁴ potential to both identify pressing societal issues and encourage others to create change. Young people have the remarkable power to create dialogue on critical issues, and these conversations—often on social media—are the first step in enacting real change.

Sarah Terrazano, *theodysseyonline.com*, 2016

1. achieve

2. weaken

3. call

4. unused

File 13 p. 144 • Challenging slacktivism

Upon checking Facebook this morning, I was blown away¹ by my news feed that consisted almost entirely of the same message posted and re-posted by my Facebook friends. [...]

In my opinion, viral activism on social media—like sharing trending hashtags, or changing one’s profile picture to have the color of a country’s flag, for example—is, for the most part, incredibly superficial. Sure, it is great for garnering² attention about an issue (which is important), but it is ultimately just a fad³ that suddenly booms in popularity, but dies out as quickly as it appears. On the outside, it may look like true activism but in reality, this activism is paper-thin—“slacktivism,” as I call it. [...]

Social media activism is merely an acceptable starting point for someone to participate in a cause they truly believe in. There is much more that can be done that many people—already content with their contribution on social media—do not do. Posting a status or hashtag is the bare minimum. I realize that people have busy lives and personal constraints, and that one may not have the time or money to contribute to a cause. If this is you, do what you can; if that means sticking to activism on social media, make sure you fully understand the cause you are supporting, truly believe that your post can help, and are not just doing it because it is trending.

I encourage everyone who wants to fight injustice to go out there and find more effective ways to participate in social and political change. March. Protest. [...] Volunteer. Engage in dialogue with others. Do what you can to UTILIZE YOUR POTENTIAL because we are all capable of changing this world for the better. It is up to each one of us individually to take this potential and run with it past our own expectations.

Amanda A. Jones, *huffingtonpost.com*, 2016

1. surprised

2. gather

3. trend

File 13 p. 149 • Early signs of a Youth Wave

Young-adult turnout surged¹ by 188 percent in early voting compared with 2014.

In the lead-up to the midterms, there has been a swell² of appeals to the country's youngest voters. Survivors of the Parkland, Florida shooting launched a nationwide voter-registration drive. Dozens of celebrities organized a live-streamed telethon aimed at directing young voters to the polls. In a rare political message, Taylor Swift³, notably silent throughout the 2016 election, urged⁴ her 112 million Instagram followers to research their candidates and cast their vote.

It seems to be working.

Preliminary results from ABC exit polls suggest that voters aged 18 to 29 will make up 13 percent of the overall electorate in this year's midterms, up from 11 percent in 2014. While early voting across every age group increased compared with the 2014 midterms, the surge is most pronounced among voters aged 18 to 29. More than 3.3 million voters from that group cast their votes early. That's a 188 percent increase from 2014, according to data from TargetSmart, a political-data-analysis firm.

The spike in youth turnout in several key battleground states is particularly striking. In Texas, where young voters have rallied behind the Democratic Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke, early voting increased fivefold⁵ for voters aged 18 to 29, according to *The Hill*. It's the same story in Nevada.

[...]

Andre Perry, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, went so far as to predict that the youth vote would determine the outcome⁶ of this year's election. Many of the youngest eligible voters seem to have been mobilized to register by the school shooting in Parkland earlier this year and the wave of activism for gun reform that followed. But a *Washington Post* analysis of that data in August found that those bumps were unlikely to have a significant effect.

[...] But as a *New York Times* piece titled “Young Voters Could Make a Difference. Will They?” Fellow said: “Young people have failed to meet expectations in the past, even when they have appeared unusually enthusiastic.”

J. Beck and C. Kitchener, *theatlantic.com*, 2018

1. grew strongly

2. increase

3. a famous American singer

4. encouraged

5. *par cinq*

6. results