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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Whenever you're ready. Okay. Can you tell us your name and where you go to school?

[00:00:04] **Speaker 2** My name is Astrid. And I go to war with your East High School.

[00:00:09] **Speaker 1** What issues are important to you?

[00:00:11] **Speaker 2** I believe some issues that are important to me are discrimination, abortion and access to mental health. Um.

[00:00:25] **Speaker 1** What would you like elected officials to do about discrimination?

[00:00:29] **Speaker 2** I believe we should allow people, no matter what race, gender or sexuality, you are, to have the same opportunities as somebody else should.

[00:00:44] **Speaker 1** Why is abortion important to you?

[00:00:47] **Speaker 2** I believe that anybody and everybody should have their own ability to have a right to their body. And kind of just taking that away from them is not only inhumane, but just not morally right to me.

[00:01:04] **Speaker 1** And why is mental health important to you?

[00:01:08] **Speaker 2** I feel like mental health is something that isn't really talked about as often as it should be, and kind of just letting that kind of shrivel down into somebody can really affect their their maybe work or sleep patterns and stuff. And that can really lead to some really bad stuff happening potentially in the future.

[00:01:36] **Speaker 1** How important is the right to vote to?

[00:01:39] **Speaker 2** I believe the right to vote to me is very important. And I think that everybody should be able to get that right once they reach the appropriate age.

[00:01:53] **Speaker 1** How much your students like yourself think about school safety.

[00:01:58] **Speaker 2** School safety isn't something that I've really thought about as much. I've heard issues where it's happened to other schools, but in my situation, it's never been something that I've really considered, you know, maybe being like something I should be worried about or, you know, cautious about. So, yeah.

[00:02:23] **Speaker 1** What is it like to be on the cusp of adulthood in the current economic climate?

[00:02:29] **Speaker 2** It's very overwhelming, I'd say. Thinking about college is kind of something that I haven't really thought about as much. But now that I'm in my junior year of high school, I've kind of looked at some colleges and looked at some career paths. So that's something that's, you know, overwhelming but exciting in some ways.

[00:02:54] **Speaker 1** How does the job market seem to you right now?

[00:02:58] **Speaker 2** It seems very I feel like there's pros and cons to it. I feel like now there's more jobs and they have like more opportunities for people. But yet I feel like, oh, like the whole like minimum wage issue and stuff. That's what I'm kind of like contemplating or worried about a little bit.

[00:03:23] **Speaker 1** Can you talk a little bit more about the minimum wage?

[00:03:26] **Speaker 2** Um, I just feel like. I feel like people really just like it's kind of hard to like, you know, go into like, detail with it, but I don't know, I just feel like we should just allow everybody, like, no matter I say, like, or I don't really know how to put it into words.

[00:03:51] **Speaker 1** So how do you think rising costs will impact you?

[00:03:59] **Speaker 2** Could you going to do so with that?

[00:04:02] **Speaker 1** Like with inflation, everything is more expensive. Does that have a big impact on your life?

[00:04:07] **Speaker 2** Um, potentially, yes. But also, I feel like we should maybe lower some prices because and some like in some cases I feel like even with like foods and stuff, I feel like they're starting to like go up and even like gas prices and everything. I feel like it can really like, you know, it's kind of ridiculous to think about, you know, so. Yeah.

[00:04:43] **Speaker 1** What issues in your part of the state are people older than you you're not talking about?

[00:04:49] **Speaker 2** I feel like a lot of people don't really talk about world hunger a lot anymore. And although it's not really happening in the US, it's like happening in some other like countries around the world and in some parts of like where my parents are from, they're from West Africa. And I've seen like a lot of, you know, like even children suffer from like, you know, starvation and stuff and not getting enough nutrients and stuff. And it's really hard to think about because I've grown up with, you know, food on the table and stuff and just thinking about somebody that has, you know, go through something like that, it's just really hard.

[00:05:33] **Speaker 1** Is there anything else you'd like to say? No. Thank you. Thank.