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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** What if were all right? Can you tell us your name and where you go to school?

[00:00:03] **Speaker 2** I am a Canadian and I go to school at Appleton West and Renaissance School of the Arts.

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

[00:00:11] **Speaker 2** The big issue that is very important to me is women's rights and especially over our bodies, especially at a time like this when our bodies are being controlled by the government every day the state is, you know, banning abortion or something like that. And it's very important because women, most of them do get sexually assaulted at some point in their life. And if someone, you know, like rape, they get pregnant or they have they have to have it. They have to have the kid no matter what. I know in some cases, in some states, they're making no rules to help with that. But still, even like if someone, you know, they decide to have a baby but they can't financially take care of it, they still have to have it. And they're growing up in an environment that might not be so good for the baby. So like, for example, let's say a mom has an abusive father and the father, you know, rapes her and they have to she has to have the kid. But because of that rape, I guess sorry, like the the father of the baby and the mom, the father's a patient, the mom's not. But she has to carry that child in the home. Life isn't so good, but she has to have the kid just because, you know, it wasn't rape. And then that baby has to grow up in that environment. Of course, you know, people that are against abortion say, well, you can put it up for adoption, but, you know, the adoption in like the foster care system at the moment isn't the best. I have a friend that was in foster care and that's been to home from home. And he's been he tells me a lot about his stories and stuff like that, and it's really horrifying. So, yeah, women's rights, especially people who just don't like think like they objectify it and say like, well, it's their fault that they were touched, that they were raped and stuff because of what they were wearing. It really makes me angry because, like, just because we exist, it's our fault. That makes sense. So you.

[00:02:36] **Speaker 1** How important is the right to vote to you?

[00:02:38] **Speaker 2** Extremely important. My parents have raised me to know the importance of voting. Every time there's an election around, they're always telling me, like. Like, for example, who they're voting for and why I should vote. Like, every time. What is it, like, primary elections, too? Because they're like even the primary elections. Because that's more community based and more focused on like, well, the president, you know, it's the entire country. But, you know, senators are really more close to the community. So you really want to vote for that. And my parents just raised me and I'm almost 18 and I'm going to vote. So, you know, my brother, he's older than 18. He voted so.

[00:03:34] **Speaker 1** Something that's on people's minds right now is school safety. How much do students like yourself think about that?

[00:03:40] **Speaker 2** Oh, I think about that a lot, especially with the new shootings that have been going on. I mean, it's been going on forever. But like, it's I feel like it's been more broadcasted, especially these days. I'm like always thinking like, okay, where's the clear, the closest exit? Where is, you know, where can I use for a weapon? My mom, every time, like she drops me off, she's like, be safe. Like always, always look out, look around for your surroundings. Make sure no one's like you don't see anyone that's sketchy that could potentially harm you. And she always talks about how horrifying it is because when she went to school, that wasn't even a thought. And now we have to learn about it once a month on what to do if somebody comes in and tries to harm us.

[00:04:33] **Speaker 1** What would you like to see done about that?

[00:04:35] **Speaker 2** I would love to see, you know, more gun restrictions. Obviously, like a person my age should be able to just be able to go and buy a bunch of guns and just like that shouldn't be legal. Like, it's I always had this philosophy. Philosophy, like something with the purpose of killing should not be easily obtainable. Like all a gun does is hurt. So why? It should be easy, accessible. I, I don't know.

[00:05:08] **Speaker 1** What is it like to be on the verge of adulthood in the current economic climate?

[00:05:12] **Speaker 2** It isn't the best I hear just because I live with my grandma and she talks about how everything used to be like how much a house cost back then, how much gas costs back then. And now I hear my mom talking about, you know, making her house payments, getting gas, getting groceries and, you know, how she has to budget all that now and how an apartment. My brother's just looking for apartments right now, and it's, like, as expensive as, like, a house here. Like, it's insane just how expensive things have gotten now and someone growing up in that and now becoming an adult. You know, my grandmother, she was married and had a house already, like when she was 22. And then here's my brother, who's 26, living in the studio apartment, barely being able to afford that as a lawyer intern. So it's pretty insane just comparing like the past and now.

[00:06:09] **Speaker 1** Do you know what you're going to do after high school?

[00:06:12] **Speaker 2** Yes, I do plan on going to college. I plan on majoring in theater and potentially doing, you know, maybe teaching like history or something like that.

[00:06:26] **Speaker 1** Are you concerned about the cost of college?

[00:06:28] **Speaker 2** Extremely concerned. Like I said, I have an older brother and he went through the process of college and law school. And he's been telling me how expensive it is for everything, the cost. And then my dad is telling me how much his college costs when he was younger. And I'm like, Well, because I feel it's better than it used to be, but you should be so much pressure to go to college. And I still kind of feel that pressure, but it's just so expensive and it shouldn't be because education shouldn't have a price tag on it. Like everyone should have an equal opportunity to learn than just, you know, paying 100 grand just to get a degree.

[00:07:11] **Speaker 1** How do you think rising costs will impact you?

[00:07:13] **Speaker 2** Rising costs? Most of the time I do think about a lot because like, I'm ready. I'm going into I'm 17, I'm about to turn 18, about to go to college and live on my own. And I'm terrified of the thought that I won't have enough money to sustain myself, that I'll have enough food or have enough because I know college sometimes like supplies you at that but once again back to how expensive colleges and adds to that total and you know how am I going to afford gas to drive back home? How am I going to do laundry like all the necessities cost money and I'm just terrified I won't have enough and be sustainable to be able to live on my own. And I have to rely on my parents.

[00:08:02] **Speaker 1** What issues in your part of the state are people older than you not talking about that you wish they were talking about?

[00:08:08] **Speaker 2** They aren't talking about. I feel like mental health as much as they should. I know growing up in those days, mental health was like, it's something you don't talk about, but now it should be talked about more. You know, my family, you know, genetically we have mental health. Like, I suffer from anxiety. And so is my sister and my father and my grandmother and all. A lot of my friends have, you know, mental health problems, especially teenagers, have mental health problems with high school and becoming adults. It should be talked about more, you know, because a lot of people have it, but they don't and they're not getting the help that they deserve. And, you know, it should be supplied to them. They should be able to talk about it and not feel like something is wrong with them.

[00:09:00] **Speaker 1** Are there any other issues you want to talk about?

[00:09:02] **Speaker 2** No. No.

[00:09:03] **Speaker 1** Yeah. All right. Thank you.