

YOUNG PEOPLE and ACTIVISM

Lorraine Chaffer,
Editor GTA NSW & ACT

Image: Permission to use, with thanks to Jo Whitby –
<https://t.co/9KFOJLPsdh>



'We asked young people why they're on climate strike. Here's what they said' was published this month on Brainstorm, a site where the academic and research community in Ireland 'contribute to public debate, reflect on what's happening in the world around us and communicate fresh thinking on a broad range of issues.'

The authors discuss their research into reasons students are choosing to strike on climate change in Dublin. The reasons provided during interviews with students reflect those given by students in Australia and at a global scale.

The article reinforces the importance of Geography as a subject that provides students with the knowledge and skills to navigate global challenges such as climate change.

We asked young people why they're on climate strike. Here's what they said

Anna Davies and Stephan Hugel, Trinity College Dublin

On reasons for activism

'Analysis: they don't trust politicians, want more education on climate change and are frustrated at how hard it is to live a low-carbon life.'

'There was incredulity about the slow pace of change, a disbelief that more was not being done and disgust that their voices and futures were being blatantly disregarded.'

'Knowing the facts of climate change was important to the young people we spoke to, but many of their concerns went beyond this. There was a clear desire to understand what kind of changes the climate crisis will cause, while others wanted to know more about the damage which has already been done to the planet.'

On the place of Geography in the school curriculum

'Where else in the curriculum do students get to study how natural and social systems interact? More than just having access to information, the march participants wanted to be able to take ownership of knowledge and skills in order to navigate the climate crisis; to be empowered.'

Read the full article here –

www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2019/1204/1097205-we-asked-young-people-why-theyre-on-climate-strike-heres-why/

CITIZENSHIP: YOUNG PEOPLE AND ACTIVISM

Investigate youth activism using the following sources

'Exploring youth activism on climate change: dutiful, disruptive, and dangerous dissent'

discusses youth dissent toward economic, social, and environmental policies and practices that contribute to climate change.

'The clock is ticking, and the future for young people today will be largely decided by generations that will be gone before the most severe impacts of climate change are felt. Dutiful, disruptive, and dangerous dissent represent three complementary and mutually reinforcing pathways for youth to express dissent, agency, and influence over their future'

<https://ecologyandsociety.org/vol23/iss3/art42/>

'Young people are leading the fight against climate change, in efforts and attitudes'

examines the concerns about climate change in different age groups, highlighting the high proportion of young people compared to older Australians.

'The Climate of the Nation report, released today, shows 83 per cent of 18–34 year olds are concerned about climate change, compared to 67 per cent of people aged 55 and older.'

<https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/young-australians-attitudes-towards-climate-changes/11493486>



School Strike. Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/57/Kate_strike-12_%2848767322511%29.jpg

'Why young climate activists have captured the world's attention' proposes that adults are taking notice out of concern for their children's future.

'From Jakarta to New York City, children and teenagers are walking out of class and marching in the streets to demand action on climate change. And the world is taking notice. Communications experts say these young climate activists are using their moral authority as children, and their social-media savvy, to surf a rising tide of adult concern.'

'Because young climate protestors don't represent someone else's agenda, their message is strikingly direct and unvarnished. "They can say a lot of things that older activists can't say," says Matthew Nisbet, who studies environmental communication at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. "They don't have careers yet. They don't have filters that adults might have.'

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02696-0>

'Youth activism is on the rise around the globe, and adults should pay attention'

'There is a stubborn resistance to treating young people's political activism as normal, but the truth is that it's neither extraordinary nor exceptional,' she said. "Children and youth are not on the sidelines. They are protagonists in the fight for their rights and their wellbeing.

<https://news.ucsc.edu/2019/09/taft-youth.html>

References

- Davies, Anna and Hugel Stephen. We asked young people why they're on climate strike. Here's what they said. Retrieved Dec 8, 2019 from www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2019/1204/1097205-we-asked-young-people-why-theyre-on-climate-strike-heres-why/
- Watson, Joey and Slee, Amruta (2019). Why these Australian students will strike for climate change action. Retrieved Dec 8, 2019 from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-14/australian-school-students-why-theyll-strike-for-climate-change/10892920>
- O'Brien, Karen & Selboe, Elin & Hayward, Bronwyn. (2018). Exploring youth activism on climate change: Dutiful, disruptive, and dangerous dissent. *Ecology and Society*. 23. 10.5751/ES-10287-230342 retrieved Dec 8, 2019 from <https://ecologyandsociety.org/vol23/iss3/art42/>
- The Lancet*. Vol 393, Issue 10183, P1774, May 04, 2019. Retrieved Dec 8, 2019 from [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol393no10183/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)X0019-7](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol393no10183/PIIS0140-6736(19)X0019-7)
- Nature* 573, 471-472 (2019) Retrieved Dec 8, 2019 from <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02696-0>
- McNulty Jennifer, (2019) Youth activism is on the rise around the globe, and adults should pay attention, says author. Newscentre, University of California. Retrieved Dec 8, 2019 from <https://news.ucsc.edu/2019/09/taft-youth.html>