U.S. student walkout to protest gun violence

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Students in the USA took part in a protest on Wednesday. Tens of thousands of high-schoolers walked out of their schools to protest against gun violence. They chose March 14 for their protest as that marks a month since the February 14 Florida shooting in which 17 students lost their lives. At Stoneman Douglas High School, where last month's tragedy took place, students gathered on the football field for 17 minutes to remember their lost classmates. One student said: "The walkout was for those who will never be here again, but we're fighting for those who might be next." Another student said: "I came out because of what happened in Florida, but also because of what happens in my neighborhood every day."

In the U.S. capital, Washington DC, hundreds of students gathered outside the White House to protest. They sat with their backs turned to the building for 17 minutes. They then took part in chants against the powerful gun group the National Rifle Association (NRA). U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren joined the crowds and spoke at a rally outside the Capitol building. She said: "The NRA has held Congress hostage for years now. These young people have shown up to free us. I believe the young people will lead us." Many of the students in the crowd wanted to remind President Donald Trump that they would be old enough to vote in the 2020 elections, so he should listen to them now.

Sources: *edweek.org / nytimes.com / wsj.com*

Writing

Governments should listen to students more. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

students / protest / violence / tragedy / remember / walkout / classmates / neighborhood capital / hundreds / building / chants / rally / hostage / crowd / vote / elections

True / False

a) The article says hundreds of thousands of students took part in protests. T / F

b) The protest took place a month after a tragic high school shooting. T / F

c) Students gathered on a football field for 17 minutes. T / F

d) One student wanted to protest about happenings in her neighborhood. T / F

e) Students stood and stared at the White House for 17 minutes in protest. T / F

f) A member of the NRA spoke at a rally outside the Capitol building. T / F

g) Many students wanted to remind President Trump about something. T / F

h) The students will not be able to vote in the 2020 elections. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**took part**	a.	recognizes
2.	**protest**	b.	prisoner
3.	**marks**	c.	assembled
4.	**gathered**	d.	calls
5.	**neighborhood**	e.	demonstrate
6.	**building**	f.	meeting
7.	**chants**	g.	district
8.	**rally**	h.	ballot
9.	**hostage**	i.	participated
10.	**election**	j.	structure

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) What things would you protest about?

c) How do you think Donald Trump feels about the protests?

d) What do you know about the USA's National Rifle Association?

e) What do you think the young protestors would say to Donald Trump?

f) What else can the student protestors do from now?

g) Do you think Donald Trump will win the 2020 election?

h) What questions would you like to ask the student protestors?

Phrase Match

1. Tens of thousands of high-schoolers walked
2. where last month's tragedy
3. to remember their lost
4. fighting for those who might
5. because of what happens in
6. They then took part in
7. spoke at a
8. The NRA has held Congress
9. young people have shown up
10. old enough to vote

a. took place
b. hostage for years now
c. my neighborhood
d. to free us
e. in the 2020 elections
f. be next
g. chants
h. classmates
i. rally
j. out of their schools

Discussion – Student B

a) Can student protests make a difference?
b) Have you ever protested against anything?
c) What else can students do to end gun violence?
d) What should politicians do to end gun violence?
e) What are the best forms of protest?
f) What is gun violence like in your country?
g) Why is there so much gun violence in the USA?
h) What advice do you have for the student protestors?

Spelling

1. Tens of <u>tnushsaod</u>
2. where last month's <u>etgyrda</u> took place
3. students <u>rhagedte</u> on the football field
4. remember their lost <u>esmtlcaass</u>
5. <u>tggfiihn</u> for those who might be next
6. what happens in my <u>nbroohoedihg</u>
7. In the U.S. <u>ialtapc</u>, Washington DC
8. their backs turned to the <u>ngubdlii</u>
9. chants against the <u>frlupweo</u> gun group
10. held Congress <u>ogatseh</u> for years
11. <u>imednr</u> President Donald Trump
12. vote in the 2020 <u>ltieensoc</u>

Role Play

Role A – Guns
You think the number of guns is the most dangerous problem in society. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their things can be controlled. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to control (and why): drugs, fast food or intolerance.

Role B – Drugs
You think the amount of drugs is the most dangerous problem in society. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their things can be controlled. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to control (and why): guns, fast food or intolerance.

Role C – Fast Food
You think fast food is the most dangerous problem in society. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their things can be controlled. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to control (and why): drugs, guns or intolerance.
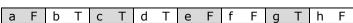
Role D – Intolerance
You think intolerance is the most dangerous problem in society. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their things can be controlled. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to control (and why): drugs, fast food or guns.

Speaking – Dangers

Rank these with your partner. Put the most dangerous things in society at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fast food
- mobile phones
- cybercrime
- intolerance

- guns
- drugs
- bullies
- cars

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	i	2.	e	3.	a	4.	c	5.	g
6.	j	7.	d	8.	f	9.	b	10.	h

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.