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Hood Votes Essay Contest

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Building Our Extraordinary Future

2020, the year of universal misery, has unexpectedly crashed into the lives of the American people. A uniquely challenging year, to put it nicely, has forever changed the lives of millions of people. Our stable and consistent lives are easily crumbled to pieces by the monstrous force of COVID-19. We have all been forced to endure a change that significantly altered the course of our life. Many are forced to push through the devastation of losing family members, jobs, income, and even places to live, taking away our voice and causing us to forget our sense of self. Our minds are confused at the massive change from constant interaction to complete isolation, resulting in arousal of panic and anxiety from the loss of a routine. However COVID-19 may have impacted each person, one thing has remained constant. Our possibility of voting, our earned and respected right, has never been threatened or limited by COVID-19. Voting, in the year of 2020, is an experience to revive our strength and rediscover our personal dignity through using our voice to advocate for a greater future.

As we continue to navigate through the new path we are thrown onto by the unfortunate events of the year 2020, we are forced to adapt to a new environment of facemasks, constant sanitation, social distancing, and many more precautions. Some activities that used to be the go-to are no longer acceptable, and the public is confused on what to allow and what to prohibit. Schools, for example, are still shut down, leaving thousands of students worried they will not be fed, since their breakfast and lunch was at one point provided to them free of charge from their school. Even something as simple as hugs, are no longer acceptable outside of immediate family members. Mutual respect, comfort, and love can no longer be demonstrated through the simple action of throwing your arms around another person. We are restarting at square one: how we interact, how we perform basic functions such as education, are all unknown. We, as the American people, now have two options. We can loath over what has happened, we can remain in the past, and we can join in a mutual suffering while we allow this virus to consume us. Or, we can look forward, we can join together to make plans for the future, and we can vote. We can rediscover our voice by voting for the improvements we think will create the best future possible in unforeseen circumstances. We can rise from the ashes of COVID-19 and we can use our experiences to vote on a candidate who will create new action plans for the future generations so they will not share in the fear created by this monstrous force of a virus. We can create a better future where we combat and defeat this virus, all while allowing the public to enjoy the previous go-to activities that consumed their lives. We can not only return to normalcy, but we can push beyond, simply by voting for how we want to see our future improve. Voting is the one activity where COVID-19 cannot take away the strength of our voices, so let it roar through the markings on your ballot.