**DARREN CRISS SCRIPT – APRIL 30, 2011**

**[ALL]**

**Did you know**

**more people in the United States**

**watch the Super Bowl**

**and use facebook**

**than exercise their right to vote?**

**[DC]**

**At a time when there’s so much at stake**

**how come so many of us don't vote for the people and laws that decide how we live?**

**do we think it doesn’t matter?**

**have we forgotten our own history?**

**Our country’s first election came after fighting for our independence**

**It was a fight that cost many lives**

**but that fight was important because instead of being ruled by a king, we were finally able to make our own laws**

**but not everyone was allowed to participate**

**[1789] you had to own property,**

**be white, and a man**

**in order to actually vote**

**that continued for another 80 years until**

**after the civil war, slavery was abolished and all men regardless of race were given the right to vote**

[JL]

hold up a minute, just because we had the right to vote, didn’t mean we actually could vote

see when we finally got the right to vote, everyone wanted to participate

that threatened the people in power – and their ability to stay in power – so they made it more difficult,

with violence

and coming up with new requirements, literacy tests, poll taxes

and it wasn't until after a long hard fight, the voting rights act passed which finally outlawed these tricks.

[YF]

and you weren't the only ones that had to fight for your rights

somehow women got left out

and had to organize and fight state by state [idaho, utah, colorado, wyoming]

then we took our fight to Washington and finally got our right to vote all across the country [19th amendment - 1920]

and even once the laws guaranteed every person the ability to vote

you still had to be 21 in most states.

so when tens of thousands of young Americans were drafted to go to war in Vietnam

young people across the country realized they were being asked to defend our country but our country wasn’t letting them participate. They rose up in protest and

in 1971, the 26th amendment was passed giving everyone over 18 the right to vote.

[JL]

and since then young people’s votes have been crucial in deciding lots of big elections

like in 2008, when a black candidate had a real chance to become president

young people showed up in record numbers [possibly show breakdown by race].

And every year young people make up a larger share of the voting population giving us more influence but only if we participate.

**[ALL]**

**Together there is so much we can decide**

**Like the way our country acts in the world**

**How we spend our resources**

**And how we are going to power our lives**

**We can determine who has the right to marry?**

**And who has the right to choose?**

**What possessions should be outlawed.**

**And whether or not we should legalize.**

**So it’s up to you to stand up, for what you believe and help to shape our future [Environment / Schools/ Rapid montage]**

**Cause if we sit on the sidelines, then others will make it work for them instead of us. [So let’s make our voices heard.] OR [We have fought for this right to vote and the power that comes with it. Will you use it?}**

**What would it take for you to vote?**