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Taking first steps toward advocacy

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Youth outline vision for country

Opinion, April 5.

I want to respond to Carol Goar's article on today's youth. Thanks to her for pointing out what so many of us know and rarely read about in newspapers and magazines — that the majority of our children and adolescents have admirable qualities and thoughtful perspectives.

I am a parent of three children, two in post-secondary education and one entering high school. When we talk about politics, the environment, social issues, Canada, I hear mature, considered ideas and viewpoints. Some of their thoughts reflect the values of our family, and some reflect input from teachers and peers.

I am also a college teacher working with 150 students every year. These students also impress me with their willingness to learn, their interest in discussing social issues and their struggle to understand the broad range of social values present in our country. Through their courses, they take their first steps toward advocacy for their beliefs and through their idealism, they remind us of what is important.

When I think about who will be making decisions and setting policy when I am a senior, I am appreciative that so many of our young people are well-spoken and highly-principled. I know they are the norm. It surprises me how often ageism is present and unchallenged in the media portrayals of our kids. We would do well as a society to judge less and listen more.

Jan Blaxall, London, Ont.

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Letters to the editor

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Send your contributions to Letters to the Editor via email to lettertoed@thestar.ca; via fax to 416 869-4322; or by mail to One Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1E6.

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