Interview with Lydia Mackey, October 21, 2021

In searching for young Conservatives who were active with the college activist group Turning Point USA, I asked for volunteers who would be willing to share their stories of finding their voices in a young conservative Facebook group that has women of all ages from across the United States. Lydia Mackey was one of the first young women to show interest in sharing her experience with Turning Point USA, so I messaged her via Facebook Messenger and set a time when she could be interviewed.

Mackey is a student at Anderson University, and prior to our interview, I had simply arranged the interview with her. As a complete stranger, it was important to build trust with her. Throughout the first part of the interview, most of my nonverbal communication with Mackey was nodding and smiling, showing her that I was actively listening to her. Through these gestures, Mackey became more comfortable as we moved into the rest of the interview. These nonverbal gestures are not reflected in the transcript, audio, or video recording.

Much of the literature surrounding conservatives often focuses on the older generations of conservatives. Yet, since the election of President Donald Trump, young conservatives are slowly becoming more vocal, especially on college campuses. It is important for future researchers to become better versed in the roots of conservatives among college students, especially since these college students are changing the way conservatives are viewed. More young people are becoming interested in politics, and often times, these interests are formed on college campuses.