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2019-2020 Brodhead Youth in Government  
**End of Term Reflections**

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*The 2019-2020 Brodhead Youth in Government representatives.  
From left to right, Craig Christensen, Sebastian Van Wyhe, Ryleigh Johnson, and Jenna Ils.*

“I have a better understanding of how the city of Brodhead runs. I wasn’t on a committee this year. I was never asked to join one. I would like to be on one next year. I would like to provide my opinion or ideas to the council because we are the future. I was on one the year before and enjoyed going to the meetings for that department. One thing I did like this year was we were emailed the agenda for the night. Also if I didn’t understand what was going on my dad was able to explain it to me.”

-- Jenna Ils

“Throughout my year in the Brodhead Youth in Government program, I have learned many impactful suggestions that I will take with me as I grow in the future. As a leader, I have learned to take responsibility and control over my own actions. I learned that it is okay to be questioned about the decisions that you made by others in order to explain yourself to either show your meaning, or change your solution to match the requirements of what is asked of you.

In the community, my perspective was changed completely. I had no idea the impact that the council makes on everyday life in our city. The impact that the council makes is one of the main reasons I am choosing to continue in the program.



My skill in being able to speak publicly comfortably, has increased significantly. I am no longer afraid to ask questions or speak up, in worry of what someone will think. I am confident in my ability to have a sophisticated conversation with an adult and sound as intelligent as they wish me to. Through the school, I am involved in Youth to Youth and through Youth in Government, I was able to hone in on my public speaking skill and present with two other adults to the third through fifth grade students and make an impact on their thinking. I am now able to engage myself with the crowd, rather than speak solely to them without a connection. I am able to present myself as a person, rather than a stiff-bodied teenager that is too afraid to speak up.

My network has expanded significantly. I have learned that it is always okay to speak up and even introduce yourself to new people. Unfortunately, I have found that most adults will not find the time to introduce themselves to you; however, I now take the time to introduce myself and ask questions about them in order to form a relationship. I am confident in my ability to talk to adults and branch out as I need.

I want to thank the Youth in Government program in Brodhead for all they have taught me. I cannot wait for next year to learn more about the city and myself.”

--Ryleigh Johnson