

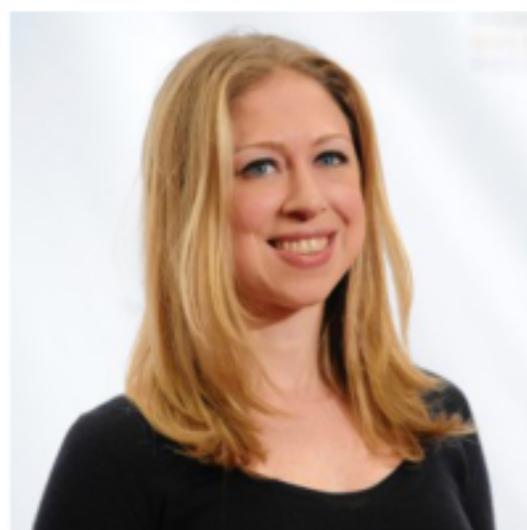
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The Race to Be Second at TED Event

By MIKE VILENSKY

Before introducing Chelsea Clinton at the TedxTeen conference on Saturday, Robert Galinsky told audience members to take out their cell phones and tweet.



Invision/Associated Press

Chelsea Clinton

"You're in a conversation today," shouted Mr. Galinsky, who wore red sunglasses on stage inside the Scholastic building in SoHo. "This is a two-way—no, hundreds-of-thousands of way—conversation. The hashtag is #TedxTeen. Tweet about where you're at, spread the ideas." Mr. Galinsky then turned to the live-stream of the conference on the Internet and exclaimed: "Hello, world!"

Mr. Galinsky suggested audience members silence their cell phones or put them on vibrate, saying that text messaging throughout the conference was totally acceptable.

The conference—an independently organized TED event—focused on young people and their potential to create change around the world. It is one of thousands

of smaller events that promise a "TED-like experience," borrowing from the format of the most well-known ideas conference but organized independent of TED, which stands for "Technology, Entertainment, and Design," and is owned by the non-profit Sapling Foundation. This one was hosted by Ms. Clinton.

Speakers included Caine Monroy, who built an arcade using cardboard at his father's auto-parts shop at age 9. Joseph Peter discussed the creation of his "happiness factory" in Manhattan, a gallery where he hung photos of people smiling. And Kuha'o Case, a blind piano prodigy, received a standing ovation. Mr. Case, 16 years old, told the audience he had never thought of his blindness as a limitation, because it was all he knew.

Ms. Clinton, who has been upping her public-profile since she began a stint as a news anchor for NBC in 2011, talked about the importance of trying.

"There's a lot of pressure to be first," she said. "The first to break a record, invent something new. And we're grateful for that pressure. It makes life more interesting! But the impact of any innovation is when other people pay attention...I think we need to have the courage to be second, to be eager to be second."

Reached by email on Monday, Ms. Clinton said she participated in the event because "I deeply believe that young people, just as much as anyone—maybe even more than anyone, have vital contributions to make to our world and our future...we should all 'get caught trying.'"

If phones lit up throughout the day-long event, it might not have been because audience members were bored. "Keep the conversation going," shouted Mr. Galinsky. "Send those messages!"