

Mob Mentality

My older sister was a little different from the average high school senior. She wore pajama pants under her jeans to school every day in the winter because she got cold...and other students noticed that fleece hanging out under the end of her denim. She never tried to tame her mess of curls that waged war against her every morning. Taking AP classes and earning a ROTC scholarship was a breeze for her. My older sister is by no means a conformist to society, but she is a role model for just this reason. To her senior prom, my sister donned a red and black medieval dress, complete with a tiara, roman sandals and a Chinese fan. She looked pretty, but at the time I just couldn't believe my sister would wear something like that! Today, however, I try to be more like her. She didn't care that some people probably looked at her and thought, "What a weirdo!" Instead, she dressed the way she wanted and expressed her individuality and confidence through something as simple as a prom dress.

Conformity is defined as the agreement between an individual's behavior and the group's standards or expectations. Individuals follow the majority's desires and standards

like blind sheep walking over a cliff. So why do human beings feel the need to take part in the judgment, peer pressure and mob mentalities that walk hand-in-hand with religiously sticking to the norm? The answer is two-fold: the need to feel acceptance and an instinct to adapt to surroundings. However, some teenagers are caught in the snares of conformity. They drink, do drugs, smoke, and innumerable other acts that portray their lack of respect and good sense. Just because something may be the cool or rebellious thing to do, many teens march to their own drum without realizing the harmful effects it can have on other people.

In a high school setting, gossip and seemingly harmless teasing can lead to social outcasts, depression and suicide in the victims. Although conformity easily applies to the setting of a high school, it can also relate to history. The Nazis ostracizing the Jews and racial prejudices in the United States also relate to mob mentalities and the lack of willingness to speak up. This happened in *The Crucible*, when the villagers were too afraid

to sacrifice themselves for the greater good, until John Proctor, Rebecca and Goody Core were innocently murdered by the noose. In *Invisible Man*, written by Ralph Ellison, the main character wants to be an individual but is hindered by Jim Crow. The unofficial laws of society were dictated by judgment and “racial supremacy” in the first place.

In the end, society needs to stop judging as a mob and start acting as individuals. Every human has feelings and goals, dreams and aspirations. As said by Mahatma Gandhi, “I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet.” Walk a mile in someone’s shoes and then there will be no need to judge, for the individual will be seen as a person, not another pair of dusty tennis shoes scuffing around the hallways.

<https://sites.google.com/site/individualityproject1112/>

Mob Mentality (Peer Pressure) in High School

Mob Mentality, considered peer pressure today, in high school is a major issue, especially in our society. In high school, teenagers face mob mentality as a lifestyle. Going to school dealing with peer pressure, gossip, and personal situations can be tough--so tough that people turn to drugs, sex, and alcohol abuse for the answers. Some people cannot even handle that, so they become suicidal. Everyone experiences peer pressure, even the ones who appear to be the most emotionally stable. Stories that we hear on the news today are examples of what young people have to face and live through. Best friends, sisters, and brothers are just a few examples who get hurt today because of mob mentality. It is not only the choices people make for themselves that affect them today--it is also the decisions of others. Try not to fall for peer pressure and say NO to mob mentality. Do not be fake...be who you are all around.

<http://judgemental101-tokillamockingbird.blogspot.com/2010/10/mob-mentality-in-highschool.html>

