Individuality

The fear of being an *outcast* should not keep you from expressing your **individuality**.

"Be who you are and say what you
feel those who mind don't matter
and those who matter don't mind."
~ Dr. Seuss

Countless people have been persecuted for being different. These differences can be witnessed through history, at cultural fairs and especially in a high school setting. Those who dress in outlandish styles, are of a specific ethnicity, or simply hang out with a certain group of friends are instantly categorized. However, what the majority of high school students do not understand is that individuality is the key to making a diverse and confident world. The kids who dress to be noticed, who wear dreads, who aren't afraid to associate with multiple and unique groups of friends and don't care about what people think about them are the individuals who will be successful in the workplace, in family life, and in making a general impact on the world. As Dr. Seuss said, "Those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." Consequently, society in the United States tends to judge those who dropped out of college. However, brilliant people like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates did not complete their college years. Although dropping out of college or not attending college will yield advantages in finding a successful job, these exceptions to the rule were not daunted by their handicap. Gates and Jobs were able to use their individuality to defy the norm and contribute to the world in amazing ways. Role models are not the rule, but the exception. In order to make a difference in the world, one must think outside the box and not care if the rest of society is too afraid to step out of this barrier. Society may judge, but in the end, it is not the individual but rather, the mob confined and limited in their abilities by the box.

"I was born to stand out." ~ What a Girl Wants

"I'm not just weird, I'm just cooler than you." ~ Unknown

"Be yourself and I promise people will enjoy it; and if they don't, *forget* them."
~ Mitchell Davis

"Life is about being yourself; someone only you can be...someone only you can understand... someone that is unlike everyone else... someone that doesn't copy others to look the same...someone who is extremely unique. Because you are you. Be original. Be creative. Be yourself."
~Unknown

"I'm probably in the sky, flying with the fishes, or maybe in the ocean, swimming with the pigeons. See, my world is **different**." ~Unknown

"The key to individuality is to get rid of that, '*I'm afraid to look stupid*,' line of thought." ~Unknown

(Individuality is not about waiting for everyone to judge you, but instead standing out from the crowd and setting the standard.)

"Take pride in whatever it is that makes you different.

Individuality is what divides you from the rest." ~ Marilyn Monroe
"When you judge someone, it doesn't define who they are....it

defines who you are." ~Unknown

"The world does not have to live with your choices. You do."
      ~ Maria Haas

"You have to do your own thing, no matter what anyone says. It's your

life." ~ Ethan Embry

"A man who does not think for himself does not think at all."
            ~ Oscar Wilde

(If you do not think for yourself, then other people do the
thinking for you. This means that you do not make your own
choices, and therefore, you are not free.)

"Certain defects are necessary for the existence of *individuality*."
                  ~ Johann Walfgand von Goethe

"If a man is not faithful to his own individuality, he
cannot be loyal to anything." ~ Claude McKay

"Imitation is the highest form of flattery, but clones kind of get it wrong because we are promoting individuality and being proud of being yourself."
~ Brain Molko

"Individuality is freedom lived." ~ John Dos Passos

"No one remembers boring people." ~ Whitney Krantz

"Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, what you believe, shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish." ~John Jakes

"When people ask me, 'why are you so weird?' I never know what to say. But then I realized, why should I be like THIS when I can be like THISSSS."
~Unknown