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As teenagers, we are the future of society, and as the future of society we need to act in a sense so those who run society today will view us as respectable people. As teenagers, we need to shed our undesirable behaviors and take on the responsibilities of the years to come. We cannot fear tomorrow, and we cannot live in yesterday. By taking on our responsibilities with gusto and acting as positive members of society, we will be given the respect we deserve. We are the future, and it’s due time that we’re treated like it.

Probably one of the greatest plagues to ever ravage our age group are near vomit-inducing “selfies”. Selfies show no sense of modesty or intelligence. Taking a selfie will not make someone more popular or more beautiful. On the contrary, selfies will most certainly bring out every flaw in every person. Selfies will not increase our chances of being respected or trusted with the responsibilities we wish to face, but instead will make us look childish, and each selfie will only lessen our chances, as a whole, to ever move up in society. For some people, however, this may be quite a difficult thing to give up. As a government, we will still allow group pictures to be taken, even if this means the awkward “hand on hip, head to one side” pose that seems so common with teenage girls in recent years. Annoying captions will also be allowed to go along with these photos. As much as we don’t want to see you call yourself ugly for the fifth time today, we would much rather deal with that than you breaking out the duck face while taking a picture in the bathroom mirror. With this compromise, hopefully the notorious selfie can be removed from our lives.

As self centered as the selfie may be, perhaps even more vain is the social media site known as Twitter. On its own, Twitter is not necessarily a negative thing, but with the way people use it, it has become another painful distraction in our lives. Twitter is afflicted with a mass number of tweets, most coming from the same person within the same, short length of time. Not only does this slow my search for items that may actually matter to me, but it also shows just how focused on ourselves this generation is. How can we expect respect from those who are older than us if we can not stop to respect them because we are too busy looking in a virtual mirror? In order to fix this situation, I propose a set time between tweets. If people were only allowed to tweet every 30 minutes let’s say, the number of needless tweets such as “eating! #food #yum” would be greatly reduced. With this added time between tweets, the deal made would be to remove the word limit on each tweet. While this may result in painfully long tweets, I (and everyone else) would much rather look at one thought out message than 20 tweets about every detail of lunch which were all sent in the past 15 minutes. This time between tweets will only gain us more respect and put us closer to our freedom from adults.

Twitter’s only evil wasn’t bringing into our lives an overwhelming amount of useless information, but it was also the catalyst to several “words” that dirty the English language in these days; most notable perhaps are “swag” and “YOLO”. These two phrases are from the language of the unsuccessful-- no matter who utters them. How can we has teenager possibly expect to be looked to as responsible and capable of adulthood when we sound so utterly unintelligent? In order to gain the esteem of our elders, we must outlaw these words from our vocabulary. As a settlement to those who use these words on a regular basis, it will be allowed for them to wear flat-brim hats as well as oversized skater shoes. While that may seem like an unusual agreement, those who wear these items are often the same people who use those words I mentioned before, making the exchange totally logical.

As annoying as the vocabulary of many people may be, there is one thing that sticks out as a truly detrimental thing to society: yoga pants. Never has there been a clothing item so repulsing, so un-modest as yoga pants. Yoga pants are possibly one of the worst inventions of modern times. Not only do they create a sexual atmosphere, but they also tell everyone one that the wearer has no care or plans for their life. Yoga pants are the ultimate in lazy apparel, even beyond sweatpants. Laziness certainly does not tell those who ultimately decide the rules that govern our life that we deserve any fewer guidelines. Yoga pants, therefore, should be hastily removed from the wardrobe of every human upon the earth. In order to balance the scales, sweatpants will still be allowed for everyday wear, and leggings will be allowed for physical activity, as well as when worn with an acceptable covering shirts. Once yoga pants are gone from our world, more freedoms will certainly be opened to teenagers of every country.

Yoga pants certainly aren’t the only fashion related mishap in today’s world, low-hanging pants are another style that should be quickly eliminated from our planet. I know no living person who wishes to see someone’s boxers showing above their pants, while the crotch is down at their knees. This shows little care for one’s own appearance as well as a lack of self pride that is so important in a respectable person. With the removal of low-hanging pants, it is understood that the occasional dropping of pants below the boxer line happens, which is acceptable. This should not be worn as a style however. Eliminating this style from teenagers everywhere will make us appear as a more modest and reputable age group in the eyes of those who judge our every move.

The main goal in wearing yoga pants and showing boxers to the world is (supposedly) to attract people of the opposite sex, which can lead to the repulsive behavior of making out in public. Making out itself isn’t a bad thing, but that’s when it’s done in private. Just because two people are in love, and happen to be in public doesn’t mean that they should start making out there. Light kissing and hugging are certainly acceptable, anything beyond that does not need to exist in a public space. Behaviors as amorous as these show a lack of self control and modesty, something adults don’t want to see. If we hope to be treated as equals, then we must immediately stop this behavior.

Besides making out, some other things shouldn’t be allowed to happen in public, such as backing into parking spots. Backing in is a waste of everyone’s time and is ultimately an act to show superior driving skills over another. It is a wholly egotistical act that should be eliminated from our lives. Backing into parking spots not only slows down the act of parking for the driver, but it also causes others who happen to be driving behind them to be slowed to a stop. Pulling through parking spots is certainly still an acceptable choice, as it doesn’t slow down anyone in the end. The choice to outlaw backing in is to making the parking lot scene a much more fluid process. Not backing in will show consideration to the time of others driving and make teenagers appear a much more respectful age group.

Backing into parking spots isn’t the only thing that takes up time, an excess amount of people roaming our locker section slows time for everyone else and takes up space. It is understood that it is nice to have your special someone from another grade standing by your locker, but the lockers are grade specific lockers for a reason. People outside the grade should not be allowed to roam through a grade’s locker hall for more than 5 seconds during passing period. Other grades will be allowed before and after school, as well as during lunch. All other times are off limits unless for a limited time. These rules will help to limit the large numbers of people who have little to no business roaming throughout another grade’s locker area. A clear locker hallway will make for a much more efficient process of going from class to class throughout the day, preventing people from being late because they were trapped between three people who aren’t even in their grade. Regulations such as these would greatly improve the fluidness of moving throughout the school.

It’s oftentimes in these crowded hallways that I have been met with an even greater problem, which is people’s incessant complaining. Common topics of non-interest range from teachers to the clogged toilet this morning. I have no need to hear these stories, as well as no want to. Complaining is the lowest form of human communication, and thus does not make those who do it look logically critical or intelligent, but instead weak and powerless in the face of adversity. Complaining should certainly not be allowed. An exception can can only be made if the complaining leads to change. Once a problem is identified, act on it don’t dwell on it. If the problem is fixed, then it is definitely okay to complain every so often.

Some of the largest amounts of complaining comes in the form of loud-mouthed, pre-puberty gamers screeching obscenities through their headsets. This might not be so annoying if they knew how to keep their mouth shut for at least five minutes, but they rarely do. Instead everyone online has to listen to their non-stop chatter. Voice chat is certainly allowable, but it should only be allowed to those whose voices are below a certain pitch or who don’t seem to have an especially vulgar vocabulary for someone who sounds like a 11 year old. Those who do not reach those qualifications should only be allowed to have private chats with their friends while online, because when it comes down to it, who really wants to hear children complain?

After all of these things are taken into account and fixed, society as a whole will view teenagers as a much more capable, reliable, and respectable age group. While these are certainly restrictions on our lifestyle, sometimes it takes restriction to form freedom. And with freedom will come our victory as teens. The privileges we desire can only be reached by doing what is viewed as acceptable by society.