Making assumptions is dangerous

Adults make assumptions about teens, and teens make assumptions about adults

If you look around at the world today, you can find people making assumptions. Sometimes these ideas are formed without anything to back them up. Making assumptions without facts always leads to problems.

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A lot of adults make assumptions about teens. We are assumed to be ignorant of the way the real world works. We aren't respectful, and we don't know how to be polite. Perhaps we aren't as courteous as we should be at all times, but who ever is?

A common stereotype about teens is that all of us drink, do drugs and have sex. To set the record straight, not all teens do those things. A small percentage of my peers do engage in these activities. And because of that small percentage of juvenile delinquents, some people think that all of us do those things.

Adults aren't the only guilty ones. Teens also assume things about adults. We think that all old people are old-fashioned. Anyone above the age of 35, to someone in their teens, is old. And we "know" that all old people don't know how to have fun. Maybe in some cases this is true, but certainly not all the time.

Being a high-schooler, I can say without a doubt that assumptions run rampant in today's schools. Teachers assume that we are interested in class work. Our peers assume that simply because we talk to a member of the opposite sex, we must have a mad crush on that person. We assume that the other people working on a group project will do the work. With assumptions like these, people get hurt and work doesn't get done.

Unlike some of my previous examples, there are some very dangerous assumptions that take place in today's society. Prejudice and racism are two very serious examples of harmful assumptions.

Not liking someone because of their social status, race or religion is wrong and hurtful. People see one person of a particular group that they don't like, and then they assume that everyone else in that group is the same way. To use an example from our own town, some people assume that all the people who live "on the Hill" are rich snobs. Ignorant, jealous and immature people think things like that.

Prejudice can be found in the halls of our schools. Just because someone doesn't wear just the right thing, they are assumed to be bad or uncool. If someone hangs out with a certain group, they become forever linked with that group. All the "cool" people get drunk, everyone who hangs out in the concourse is a "freak." Making assumptions like these simply makes you look stupid.

The worst thing about making assumptions is that you hurt yourself. You prevent yourself from getting to know someone. You prevent yourself from learning and exploring things on your own.

Why do people do these things if they are so wrong? That's a wonderful question that I wish I knew the answer to. Miseducation and ignorance are the only things that I can think of.

Before you start forming judgment or start making assumptions, first find out the facts.

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