

Mrs. Snider

HP English Period 5

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Staying True To Yourself

When it comes to the way people live their lives there can never be a 'right' or 'wrong' way to live a happy life, but society will always try to influence and change people. Staying true to yourself is hard when society is constantly influencing humans to do what everyone else is doing. Living in today's developing world can be challenging because everyone has a different belief when it comes to major topics affecting the world. Whether it be politics, climate, or sports people are always going to have different beliefs of what is right or wrong. Deciding what is a waste of time and what is actually worth spending time on depends on what your personal beliefs are.

Being true to yourself is a hard task to follow when constantly being influenced by society's ways, but if you act upon what you believe is right, if you break away from being like everyone else, and if you do not get pressured by others opinions then forming your own path can be life-changing.

People's actions should directly affect their beliefs and a life goal should always be to make the world a better place, by taking the right actions. In *Fahrenheit 451* Granger explains his grandfather's words to Montag, he addresses the elements of what it means to make a change in the world, "It doesn't matter what you do, he said, as long you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away"(Bradbury 150). Believing in a positive change is the first step to leaving your handprint on the world, and

just living life is not enough you must plan to take action and make what you believe is right better. Believing in a cause and taking action can better shape our society and make changes the world desperately needs, and believing in morally right causes makes humans better people. Starr the main character in the novel *The Hate You Give* speaks to her dead friend that she witnessed die, she tells him that, “People are realizing and shouting and marching and demanding. There’re not forgetting. I think that’s the most important part. Khalil, I’ll never forget. I’ll never give up. I’ll never be quiet. I promise”(Thomas 443). Standing up for what is right can come in many ways, shapes or forms, believing in a matter so strongly makes it easy to act in ways that feel right. Standing up for a political issue can be controversial but, when speaking about a topic that is personal to you it makes the negative people trying to take you down seem irrelevant. Making a difference by taking action for what you believe takes the confidence to break away from the way the majority of the people in the world choose to live.

Following the path of others is the worst mistake people can make because allowing others to decide your fate is simply letting others live the life meant for you to live. Patria one of the main characters in the book *In the Time of the Butterflies* quotes the bible to show the way she chooses to live her life, “Build your house upon a rock. He said, do my will. And though the rainfall and the floods come and the winds blow, the good wife’s house will stand”(Alvarez 148). People might try to disrupt your way of living but, staying strong and not letting others influence your decisions is the ultimate goal when trying not to be like everyone else. Leading a different lifestyle then others allows for a stronger foundation which leads to a lifestyle less impacted by the world’s surroundings. Mrs. Obama talked about being a “box checker” in her recent book titled, *Becoming*, but as she grew older she learned to “swerve”, she learned to no longer live by life’s rules and

regulations. Following life's common path can lead to someone who does as most would expect them to do and does nothing more to make themselves stand out. Living life outside the box means following a path less traveled and making your own way. The world cannot be full of people following one path if that was the case life would be fairly boring with no one doing any one task differently, so be the person that chooses to be the change. Breaking away from being like other people can be hard, but once it is an everyday habit not allowing others to pressure you with their opinions becomes easier.

Everyone around you is always going to believe something different, so it is important to stay true to your moral values and not allow the pressures of others to affect your decisions. Golding demonstrates in the *Lord of the Flies* that Jack has a dominant personality and he makes it known that others should not speak their opinion by saying, "We know who ought to say things. What good did Simon do speaking or Bill or Walter? It's time some people knew they've got to keep quiet and leave deciding things to the rest of us"(Golding 102). Persuasion is a trait most Americans possess and it in people's blood to force others upon what they believe, this is wrong because people have the right to make their own decisions. Jack in, *Lord of the Flies* used persuasion to lure characters on to his side, this caused the characters to stop thinking about what they believe or what they thought was right and instead just follow what Jack said. Starr's mom informs her about an important life lesson she needs to know because she is struggling so much, "Momma grabs my hands again-" looked me in the eye, and said, 'Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right'(Thomas 154). People everyday pressure others to do something wrong and it is important to know life is not always perfect but, if you start doing harm it is hard to stop, so the goal is always to do the right

thing. Letting other people's opinions decide your fate is an unnecessary way to live life, other people do not know the best way to live your life so the best thing to do is be happy with the life you decide for yourself. Staying true to yourself, doing what you believe and not giving in to others beliefs are ways to stay true to yourself when constantly being influenced by society.

The best way to go about your life is to make your own decisions and not let others influence what you do, whether that be by, acting upon what you believe is right, not following the footsteps of others, or not being pressured by others opinions. Staying true to your moral values helps with deciding what is worth fighting and standing up for. The novels we read focused on character development and how a character can change over time, this relates to the real world because people are constantly developing and changing based on society. The change most people have to make is instead of changing to society's ways they need to form to their own ways and do what feels right to them. Achieving goals come with self-confidence and believing that what you think is satisfying enough and the influence of society is not needed, this is the easiest way to be your own person. Society will always try and make people something they are not, but you are strong enough to say no to what everyone else is doing and yes to what you want your life to be, so form your own path.