

Me Myself and Everyone Else

Socialization one of the single most influential things in our world. The creator of our personalities, and what influences how we see gender, class, race, religion, age and many other things. "In this way our socialization, is shifting from being apart of a community, to one of selfishness and self adoration."(Socialization in the 21st Century by Kareem Campbell) Socialization also helps us to form the opinions that we have on things such as political standpoints as well as personal beliefs that we may have. I learned through this project that this process of socialization puts us into either agent groups or into target groups. The agent groups are the groups that typically hold the most power in our society were as the other group the targets are put at a disitvantige. Some agent groups include caucasian people, heterosexual , men, and the wealthy. Target groups include people of color, elders and kids, women, and the poor. There are many areas in our life where we are socialized into either target or agent groups, however the most influential ways that I was socialized was by my gender which is female, and age which is fourteen. This is because these types of socialization effect people through their entire life and can change throughout their life. They define what we see as successful in our culture, and how we view ourselves. I believe that age and gender are the two most prevalent causes of socialization in in my life because, they are two unchangeable factors that affect me in very substantial ways that can change my life, such as myself image and the power that I have in my life.

I was along with all other women into a gender bias society, and gender roles, this affects the opportunities I have in the world. Throughout our like we grow up thinking that these roles, biases, and standards for the female gender are the norm. These gender roles continue to affect us throughout our lives, they determine what our standards are as well as how we view ourselves and our future. When I was younger I was surrounded by pink and purple I thought that these two colors were to be the colors I like the most. I also had an older brother who had none of these colors but instead a lot of blues and greens. From a very young age I stereotyped boys as liking and only being able to like blue and green and girls only liking pinks and purples. Because of this if I saw a girl that was wearing a green shirt I would instantly think that that's odd and that that girl must be weird or a tom boy. This color bias created a very clear difference between males and females for me and then as I got older that separation and the clear distinction that I had made between these two genders developed more so that I designated gender roles, because I saw these two genders as separate they had to have their one jobs and roles. Things such as girls clean, cook and take care of the kids, and the men went to work, made the money, and protected the family. There are agent and target groups in gender as well the agent group being men and the target group women. As a little girl I was very pleased that the other girls had come up with the same separation of the two genders and had the same gender roles. Looking back on this memory I was unaware of this gender stereotype that I was being socialized to believe since I was in preschool.

Gender has also affected me throughout my life with feeling insecure about the way I look and behave around others. This socialization of gender grows and changes over time, for me it changed from gender roles to self image. "Scientists have found that both men and women see women's bodies as a mish mash of sexual body parts were as men are seen as the whole person96% of sexually objectifying imagery is of women's bodies." (Sexual objectification: What it is, why it's damaging, and how we change it. By Melissa Gilkey) This socialization of young girls isn't so much enforced by parents and schools but mainly by the media in my personal experience, although parents and peers do play a role. Girls constantly see magazines and ads, or tv commercials and shows that show depicting the ideal body. The older girls get the more that these things affect them and the more they think that they need to conform to this to be worth something. This has been normalized into our society so girls think that they have to be wanted by men and the only way that they will be wanted is if they are skinny, wear certain clothes, have curves, smooth skin, and wear make up.

In our culture, I was taught and forced into the generalization that teens and children are often irresponsible, troublemakers who do not get a say in what goes on around them. It has become a norm in our society for middle aged adults to have power over everyone, even the elders. Teens elders and young kids are all in a target group because of their age whereas middle aged people are the agent group. They are especially entitled to hold power over teens and kids. However, they determine what they are allowed to do, where, and go. "I would never let my child where anything like that.(Princess Boy Loves to Wear Dresses, by ABC News)" In this quote the parent is using their power over the child to determine the action that this child is allowed to take. This quote to me shows that the parent has a lack of trust for the child to be able to make a decision about what he is allowed to wear and or how he is allowed to act. This is coupled with the common belief and stereotypes that teens are also irresponsible and troublesome. This has become a norm in our society to the point where parents dread teen years. In my personal experience with my parents as I grew up they would often remark that they dreaded when I would become a teenager because of the stereotype. This socialization of parents telling their kids that they will turn into irresponsible lazy and troublesome, can cause kids to turn into just that. Kids hear adults the media such as in the movie mean girls there the students are viewed getting into all kinds of trouble, with lying to their parents, throwing parties, drinking ext. Kids have all this supporting evidence including other kids talking about teens being this way and so when they reach the age when they are classified as teens they change themselves to fit the social norms as well as their culture's expectation for their age group. They think that if they are going to be accepted as normal teens in this culture they have to act the way they were told teens act their entire life. So teens are thought to be troublesome and rebellious and who better to rebel against than the main power structure which controls a majority of their life, their parents. This will cause the stereotype to intensify and create more of it to be true. Also I have noticed that when you become a teen in my personal experience adults start searching for your faults and looking for your slip ups. They have had this same stereotype drilled into their heads as well so they become hyper focused to look for the things that you lack or may not have done so well on. For example when walking

down the street the cops watch you closer, or in stores teens have to take off backpacks because it is so instilled that every teen is a troublemaker, but is that a natural part of getting older or are we taught to be that way.

Clearly the two most prevalent causes of socialization in my life are age and gender they are constantly influencing and shaping me everyday. Gender and age are two unchangeable factors in our life that affect us in very substantial ways that can change our lives in many different way. These two parts of socialization affect everyone and most aren't even aware of it. One way I can change this for the better is by noticing it and making the decision to change it. From the article the cycle of socialization, that was written by bobbie harro, the circle of customization goes first socialized, to enforcements, results, actions, the beginning. In this diagram in the category actions there is an alternate course called direction for change. This is where you "interrupt" the cycle and "refrain" your socialization. if you are aware you can use the direction for change to break away from those harmful effects of socialization. They can change people's lives and determine that there challenges and advantages in the world will be.

The mask that I created represents when I put on a mask to try to seem perfect to the people around me. The face on the front represents how I try to seem like the ideal stereotype of what a girl should be. The back of the mask represents that I am really limitless and cannot be contained. It also shows my imagination, and creativity. On the front of the mask it is cracking and the universe is showing through. This represents my true self breaking through the mask of perfection so that my true self can begin to show. Also there is a crack that goes through the eye of the mask. This is referencing the quote that eyes are windows to the soul so the eye was the start of the cracking which then led to my true self or my soul showing through the mask.