Monica Lewinsky Response

The thing about this ted talk is that I heard the exact same framework of words every year I was in school. Some speaker came to our school to tell us a sad backstory filled with bullying and depression and try to convince us not to bully. Think about my words, I put emphases on “convince”. Humiliation should not be something you need to write a persuasive essay on. It is wrong, and if you think it is not, you are wrong.

That being said, there are different types of “bullying”. There is bullying for humiliation, and then there is bullying for let’s call it character correction. I was bullied throughout school because I made dumb decisions. I dressed like an idiot, didn’t shower, and always said dumb things thinking they were funny. What I perceived as bullying was actually people just being annoyed by my character, and not wanting to have anything to do with me, thus “character correction”. The only thing about me that I was unable to control was my voice, which did not change until sophomore year. I begun to notice after a while that I was not the only one who thought they were bullied when in reality they just did not want to change who they were. And its not that they are just weird, with the way some of them act they will not be functioning members of society, being too easily offended, and focused on virtual activities without moderation.

Contrary to that, I have met people who have been bullied solely for the sake of humiliation. Kids who just wanted to be left alone with their normal hobbies, like building computers and such. This kind of bullying traditionally comes from someone who has a lower intelligence, it is a sort of subconscious jealousy of the other person. Or they could just choose someone who they think is ugly by their standards and try to humiliate them. Did you know that using humiliation in war is a war crime?

I do not believe anyone deserves to be humiliated, and from what I can tell, that was the majority of what happened to Monica. In chapter eight of the book of John in the bible, Jesus confronts a group of people about stoning a woman for committing adultery. When the people come to Jesus telling him what the woman had done saying they must stone her, Jesus stepped in. He said in verse 7, “let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Even someone who is not a Christian can see the logic in that statement and how it applies to this situation. People shamed her for being inappropriate while some of them have most likely done something worse. She even brings up this point in her speech when she asks if anyone in the audience did anything dumb when they were 22.

I do not believe there is a way to get rid of joking about other people, to be honest some people walk into it of their own volition. On another note John Mulany has a couple of good SNL sketches about an awkward uncle being made into a meme, and the uncle feels terrible about it. Her story is nothing new, I have heard the same story hundreds of times from other people. I can say that I don’t intentionally bully anyone because of the way I felt when I was being “bullied”. The only way bullying can stop is with the mutual understanding of everybody how it makes people feel, and if the commercials and motivational speakers don’t work, I don’t know what will.