

Response – Disillusionment & In-Class Article

I'm going to be completely honest and say that I cannot relate to the particular article we read in class in any way, shape, or form. I'm admittedly privileged to have a stable, socioeconomically top 5% family, both parents college educated and working great jobs, yet with enough flexibility to spend time with their kids. Probably the only area in which my parents and I frequently disagree are our opinions on how much time I should be spending in my workshop and on my computer. My biggest day-to-day worry isn't if I'll be returning home from school each day to a violent situation, or if my parents will be able to put food on the table. It's wondering if the code I've been writing will compile properly, or if my 3D printer's z-axis has become misaligned.

Despite this, I can certainly see where the disillusionment that many have pointed out in our society is coming from. People naturally like figures they can relate to, explaining the rise in rap music's popularity. The question is, however, why this generation feels disillusioned, as opposed to the feelings by previous generations in similar situations. Probably one of the biggest reasons for a feeling of disillusionment as opposed to a feeling of claustrophobia from hyper-involved parents is the advent of the double income family, not to mention the rising divorce rates.

Something I wonder is the lasting effects of rap and rock music paralleling teens' feelings. Back in the 80's and 90's, you had a generation tired with their hovering parents, and as such, many of the popular songs around the time were about rebellion and fighting back. However, there have been no studies (that I know of) linking those who listened to said music genres in their childhood and a less involved parenting style. It will be interesting to see if the uninvolved parent trope is a result of changing economic and cultural stigmas (more women in the workforce, single parents, etc.) or a generation feeling smothered by their parents and expressing it through music. We'll be able to see this

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by observing if trends stay the same or if we have a new generation of future parents who are pledging to give their children the respect and attention they felt they deserved in their childhood.