

The saints and the roughnecks essay sample

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Introduction

One of the greatest challenges a person face each day is the ability to face the whole world, the society which waits you out there from your shell. The opinion of the people around you, whether they were your close buddies, families or people you do not even know sometimes matters a lot because it forms you into another person, into a different being judged by the world out there.

It is not the challenge which forms and effect with you as a person but the words said, stares thrown at you, the judgments and the image which causes impact, probably pain if not happiness. The society dictates what is to be done with all of the things happening in our lives, not all the time but most of the time which causes us, the people to be a different person through out the years.

The art of Growing up

Growing up is one of the hardest adventure that each one of us must take. It asks for our pure understanding of life and our ability to make things right in each path we take. Growing up is the road into maturity and it is somehow the basis of our achievements and our failure. Dark and wonderful years in growing up may result to other events that will hone us into either a better person or someone who will enjoy breaking the rules and doing craps in life. There are things that make us who we are and all of these things are part of growing up.

Part of growing up includes childhood and adolescence which will bring us into adulthood. Hence, these stages of our lives bring us some training into how we will be able to face life and the society which we are living in. not all the people around us will understand that we have our life because no matter what we do, in all the things we do, a chain reaction follows, a cause-and-effect events will tag along. Hence, in this life, in our lives, these reactions and trails will either lead us into something good or something that we will regret for a long time.

William J. Chambliss' article which is about two groups of teenagers whom he studied through out their high school years and followed for two years talked more about the impression of the people around them and the kind of society we have. Aside from the views and the opinions of the greater public, the author also talked about the events in the lives of these teenagers which are quite contradicting from the ideal actions of the children of the same age. Two years of " hanging" with the two groups, the author was able to see how these students live their lives and how the people around them react regarding the things they do (Chambliss).

Chambliss used the school set up to start with his study, probably a social development study since he opt to see how students live their lives and what do they usually do in school. As he hangs around the school, few students caught his attention and soon, he had the perfect subject for his study. He called them the saints, maybe because they are not the trouble makers kind because they were good students in school and some were even part of the organizations and clubs the school have. On the other hand, he also hanged around the Roughnecks who were from mot so rich families (Chambliss).

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The two groups though belong to the same age brackets were really different from each other. The saints who came from high/middle class families were the well dressed people while the roughnecks who were not well dressed and do not have cars were looked at differently by the society. The appearance of the two groups perhaps added to the image they were portraying in the society. The debate on who does the more delinquent acts is the focus of the topic which will lead to the conclusion that the society and the treatment of the people including the views and the opinions for these teenagers matters the most and are important in the maturity of the gangs (Chambliss).

Issues in the Reading

Focusing on the delinquent acts of the teenagers and how they do inside the school, perhaps we will understand that there are things which the human eyes cannot really see. Looks can always be deceiving and in the case of the saints, they can easily escape from the things they do because they appear to be kids having fun and do not actually mean what they were doing. On the other hand, the roughnecks who were really having a hard time because the society out there had stereotyped them into doing bad things caught the attention of the author because their case is much related to how the people looked at them.

While the saints can easily get off all their mistakes and the roughnecks cannot, the former were also considered as good students and were able to get high grades. Escaping from classes was simple and going to the place they would love to hang around is like a piece of cake. The roughnecks who

were already stereotyped into not doing any good were not having good grades and mostly C's in grades. Hence, there are things in the lives of the teenagers which affect their attitudes and soon will affect their future (Chambliss).

Sociological Theories and Perspectives

The status in life perhaps affects these differences of the two gangs. Hence, we can always associate the way they act into their environment. The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective allows us to look in the attitude or the behavior of the people. In this case of the two gangs, the perspective enables us to study their behaviors while looking on the subjective side, on the absence of the society. We are now focusing on the human image of the person rather than the image of the society. Associating this to the reading, the way the author described the difference between the two groups; mainly the appearance wherein the saints are the well dressed and the roughnecks are not forms the perspective (McClelland).

This issue about the image of the people being studied results to an observation which the author did. The face to face encounter of the author with the students allow him to criticize them and tell what they are based on how they talk and their appearance (McClelland). On the other hand, Social Stratification which is most commonly characterized with the hierarchy that is present in the society. This leads us to the status of the lives of the teenagers. The roughnecks which came from a not well to do family is not well dressed and were stereotyped on doing no good is much more likely belong to the lower part of the hierarchy while the saints who were mostly

rich kids belong to the upper part of the society which enables them to escape from their mistakes easily (Headrick).

Using the theory of social development, we can understand that development is a growth an evolution that enables us to change. In the case of the students in the article which the author used as his subjects, throughout the time, they were able to change (Asokan). While others remain as pain in the ass or problem of the society, others turned out to become successful citizens.

However, this growth does not necessarily mean that they change a lot but they somehow change. In the group who came from well to do families, mostly were successful in life except for one while in the other group, only two were able to become successful because others turned out to have criminal cases. Despite of this, those who belong from the saints were still doing the same old things they used to do but a little less from before.

The question whether they turned out to be good citizens or not is still hanging. No one admits it but perhaps they were really bound into doing the delinquent things in their life. No matter how people around them turned to criticize them, the saints again will always get away thus, the social stratification permits them to continue deceiving the people around them.

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