

# Adolescent egocentrism essay



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Teenagers manifest their egocentrism through imaginary audience and personal fables. Whereby, teenagers walk around as if they have an imaginary audience watching every move they make. A good example of imaginary audience will be when a parent tries to show his affection in the public to his teenage son or when his friends are around. Teenagers think this is not cool, what would their imaginary audience think? Looking back I realize my brother went through this phase, when he is hanging out with his friends he would be so embarrassed for my mother to address him as “sweetie, honey” he gets upset about it.

There was a time he was sick and admitted in the hospital, few of his friends stopped by the hospital to see him my mother tried to give him a hug because she misses him and he turned her down and became very defensive and explained why it is not cool for a fourteen year old to be hugging his mother. Also, when you try to kiss him in the cheek he brushes it off and in a manner of as if to say “What is wrong with you can’t you see everybody is watching us”. Even when I know it is just one or two persons around.

In his mind, he believes the imaginary audience is around and they will not approve of such affection from his sister or mother. Same goes to when it comes to dressing up especially for teenage girls, they keep looking at themselves in the mirror as if to get an “Okay you look great”, from how they dress, look, and outward appearance all are subject to the approval of imaginary audience. Case Study 2 the Personal Fable A teenager with personal fable have feelings of nothing bad will happen to me, I am invincible, and untouchable kind of attitude.

A good example will be a sixteen year old foster care child that I took care of when I was working as a social worker. He joined the wrong crowd and started going with his gang to commit robbery at night. He confessed to me about robbing “ people that are not smart”, I brought the issue up during out team meeting the child was present at the meeting too. He was very blatant about it, reassuring us that he will never be caught “ those that get caught are not smart”.

Even when we threatened to report the issue to the police, he said the police cannot do him anything. He went on another robbery one night and his partner suspects he was going to give up the group because he felt bad they just committed murder in the process unfortunately, he was shot dead at the back of his head by his partner. A lot of teenagers live under this notion that other people can get hurt or caught but not them and this make them to engage in dangerous acts that could kill them or put them away for life.

Sometimes teenagers especially females think their experiences are special; no one can understand what they are going through. I was watching a movie two days ago and a teenager caught her boyfriend with another girl in a restaurant, she broke up with him and was starving herself to death at home. Despite her mother’s affection towards her she said “ you don’t know what I am going through my heart hurts so bad I can’t take it anymore”. This is typical of a teenager going through personal fable.