

10 things i hate about
you – strive for
individuality essay



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Throughout the visual text of 10 Things I Hate About You, Gil Junger (the director/author) applies emphasis regarding strive for individuality. This is portrayed via the main character's (Kat) actions, particularly her determination to do completely the unordinary, yet that goal is not "her". Kat strongly strives for somewhere that she believes is where she belongs, although as a matter of fact she attempts too hard at this image of individuality in search for herself, as a result she ends up becoming something that isn't her true personality of which she is comfortable with.

This moral is portrayed throughout the entire film through experiences that Kat faces, particularly through her relationship with Patrick, a person that brings out her "inner being". At the beginning of the visual text, Kat is displayed as a rebellious girl in comparison to the very vibrant group of females alongside her on the road; this is Kat in her fabricated personality based on "being one out of the crowd".

While this set of energetic and blatantly happy group of girls are listening to feel-good music, Kat is listening to music with the lyrics containing "I don't give a damn about my reputation". Certain indications are made that Kat is certainly not distinctly close to the other girls beside her, hence the opposition in contrast/lighting (shadows and black clothes), music and physical expressions, particularly her smile that emits a negative feeling. These effects display Kat's individuality in comparison to what is considered the norm in terms of her high school.

Personally, I believe that this is certainly a wrong way of going about being your true self - in the end; she has ended up creating a fabrication of her

personality and had tried to shape it into something that she isn't. The correct way (in my opinion) to go about this would be living life how Kat truly desired without any pressure in terms of changing that desire, which is what was happening during her and Patrick's relationship (which will be explained in a latter paragraph).

When Kat was in a relationship with Patrick, her true, inner self was inside of her, as opposed to her fabricated personality. Kat was truly happy when she was with Patrick at the paintball course – a smile was on her face and her decisions were chosen via pure instinct rather than being 'filtered' by her fabrication of individuality. Basically, she was experiencing life without the feel to act different – she was genuinely happy and felt that she could be her own self at this moment.

This moment was one of the cases in the visual text that her 'naked' personality was being displayed. I feel that Patrick seemed to be an individual in Kat's life that she could truly relate to, hence why she was able to be herself around him. It is evident that Kat required someone that she could relate to – her previous relationship wasn't a close relationship, the other partner didn't allow Kat to be herself and as a result caused Kat to feel lonely and concurrently that she could no longer be with the norm; she had to be something completely individual.

To summarize, I feel that Kat needed someone that she could relate to, and that she could be herself around without being pushed into doing something that wasn't herself. This was (as mentioned) displayed when she was around

Patrick; she was able to act herself. Although this is purely based on my evaluation of the text, I feel that this was happening ‘ behind the scenes’.