

Rant and Rave about the Real World

Directions:

Rants: Sometimes there's nothing like writing a good rant to get something off your chest. According to Dr. James Seitz (University of Pittsburgh) a rant is "a bombastic form of speech in which one talks extensively and excitedly without interruption." (How perfect for adolescents!) Rants often take the form of a lengthy, vehement complaint about something that the speaker finds especially annoying, or it could be a scathing expression of outrage about something the speaker feels is unfair, unjust, or just plain wrong-headed. Invite students to write a rant about a real situation at school, in their community, in the US, or in the world that triggers intense feelings of annoyance or outrage.

Raves: Writing a rave (or a panegyric to be more precise) may be a bit more challenging for some students. A panegyric is a speech in which someone or something is elaborately praised. Invite students to write a panegyric in praise of:

- A sports figure, musician, or artist who embodies perfection in pursuit of her/his craft or discipline;
- A favorite place, street, natural setting, city, building, or other site;
- The perfect meal;
- A perfect day at;
- The perfect dress or outfit;
- The perfect boyfriend/girlfriend;
- The best car on the market;
- Or anything else that deserves your accolades.

Invite students to share their opinions with the class.



HANDOUT 28

Teens and Freedom, Part I: What's Your Opinion?

This is a survey from USA WEEKEND. Over 200,000 teens took the survey that was distributed in the magazine, online, and in partnership with Channel One.

1. Today's teens have:

Too much freedom	16%
Not enough freedom	47%
The right amount of freedom	37%

2. Do you think adults today are trying to limit teens' freedoms too much?

Yes	70%
No	30%

2a. If yes, who is most responsible for the restrictions?

Parents	44%
School officials	16%
Law enforcement officials	26%
Politicians	14%

3. Do you now have the freedom to: (percentage saying yes)

Listen to whatever music you want	87%
Pick your own friends	92%
Decide how to spend your money	81%

4. Some communities are imposing curfews on teenagers at night to reduce crime. Is that:

Fair	50%
Unfair	50%

5. If you have children, will you be:

Stricter than your own parents or guardian	4%
Not as strict	44%
About the same	52%

6. Do you think public school officials should have the right to tell students what to wear at school?

Yes	21%
No	79%

7. Which do you think should or should not be banned by school dress codes?

	Banned	Not banned
Hats	15%	85%
Baggy clothes	19%	81%
Short skirts	35%	65%
Cutoff pants	20%	80%
Exposed midriffs	42%	58%
Earrings on boys	19%	81%
Nose, lip, tongue, or eye rings	44%	56%
Clothes with gang symbols	75%	25%

8. I think uniforms in public school are:

A good idea	17%
A bad idea	83%

9. If the national anthem is played before sporting events at your school, students should:

Be required to stand	69%
Have the right not to stand	31%

10. Should public schools be allowed to lead students in prayer?

Yes	43%
No	57%

11. Which of the following should school officials be allowed to enforce to protect students? (percentage saying yes)

Restrict foul language in writing assignments	58%
Censor what students write in the school newspaper	38%
Ban books, newspapers, and magazines considered offensive	31%
Search a student's locker for drugs or weapons without permission	58%

12. Do you think your parents trust you:

Enough	65%
Not enough	35%

13. The respect you get from your parents or guardian should be:

Earned	46%
Automatic, unless I abuse it	54%

14. Parents today should have the right to ... (percentage saying yes)

Install a V-chip in the TV to block violent or offensive shows	35%
Install a special device in the car allowing them to monitor teens' driving speed	30%
Install a computer program limiting what teens can access	36%

15. Should there be restrictions on teens' use of the Internet?

Yes	30%
No	70%

15a. If yes, which do you favor? (percentage saying yes)

There should be limits on how much time teens can spend on the Internet	28%
There should be limits on where teens can go on the Internet	87%

16. How well do you know the lyrics to the music you listen to?

Very well	61%
Somewhat well	34%
Not very well	4%
Not at all	1%

17. How well do your parents or guardian know the lyrics to the music you listen to?

Very well	12%
Somewhat well	27%
Not very well	30%
Not at all	31%

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