



We See

What We See Changes Who We Are

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The Impact of Music

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I interviewed my friend, Genny about her views on today's music and how it impacts teenagers everywhere. Genny is a 16 year old girl who loves various genres of music. She enjoys listening to music because it makes her feel better. The kind of music she listens to depends on her mood.

I started off the interview asking Genny about her personal views on music and she said that music is very inspirational to her because it makes her think that she can do anything once she believes in it. I proceeded to ask her thoughts about the impact of music on teenagers and she said, "We live in a world where music may have both a negative and a positive impact on a child's life. A lot of teenagers depend on music to speak to them and to teach them." Since it is becoming a serious problem in society, I asked her about her feelings towards 'indecent music.' She responded with "I think at times it can be very disrespectful and can send out the wrong messages to listeners. Take, for instance, Tommy Lee, who frequently sings

about racism, demons, sex, abuse, drugs and alcohol. Those things are influencing teenage boys, making them feel that it's ok to disrespect females. I closed the interview by asking her how she thinks we can put an end to this 'indecent' music and she clearly stated, "There will never be a way to stop the promotion of indecent music. Celebrities will always have to find a way to express their thoughts on something even if it's pointless but it all depends on the way they choose to portray it. We all have to take notice that some celebrities target adults with their music, not children. Therefore it's the adult listeners and the radio and television stations that need to be cautious of the music they dispense around children."

Genny closed off by saying, "Before any music can be published, it should be carefully monitored so as to prevent wrong messages being distributed to listeners." As a result of this interview I concluded that yes, music has a great impact on teenagers everywhere.



My Thoughts on Music Pt1

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Thoughts: It's hard to give my thoughts on this. I don't know why for sure yet, but it is. I live in North Ruimveldt and on the bus, off the bus, and everywhere, this music can be heard. Even if the buses don't play the music, it is still there. After I participated in a workshop that raised my level of consciousness, I started to hear the little "insults" or "remarks" that I wouldn't want my daughter listening to or my mother to be associated with. At the same time, I won't lie- at a dance party, there are some songs that you must play. That's why they are dancehall songs. And the music is very good. I like the music but the lyrics are a different story.

I agree that derogatory music is bad because it basically keeps or aids in the survival of indecent behaviour, and the younger the

child or person, the easier it is for them to be caught in it since they are a more vulnerable population. Imagine an innocent nine year old child, wakes up, gets on the bus. And all the way to school has to be abused by the dirty and disgusting words of the songs being played. Music inspires and uplifts your spirit. But when you are forced to listen to, "buddy x5 in ah yuh pom pom" and "wine in ah yuh hole," then what are we doing to that young child or the children who uses public transportation?

Everything has its time and place. There is a limit for everything. Don't play this music on the buses, but keep it to the parties and your house where only you can hear it. Often times others are not interested so don't let your excuse be "I am playing for you."



Strength: How's Strength Developed?

By WITNESS Youth Staff

A person is not defined by what he or she looks like, how many likes their photos gets on Facebook or how much money they make. What you do is truly who you are. We all have character, even animals have character. Some persons may have courage, fear, wisdom, charity, lust, hate, love, laziness, etc. With character comes the person's behaviour and ways they react to different events and it's what makes us human. Throughout your life you will find persons with all different colours of character, but there are only two types of character, Strengths and Weaknesses. Strengths are good features that benefit you and the people around you, while Weaknesses are the results of the lack of strength that then doesn't benefit anyone, not even yourself.

The characteristic weaknesses can destroy one so badly. Most times you are defeated before you start the battle that life has become. Look at men that abuse and control their partner, they lack confidence and trust, and because of that they wake up every day thinking that their partner is going to leave them. This is the one thing that they fear the most.

Strengths are those things that allow you to achieve greatness. With strengths we don't feel that we are fighting we just go through

life happy. Yea we may get knocked down, but that's life and we never stay down. Look at the happiest time of your life, were you fearful or hesitant that you would never experienced it again? I believe it's necessary as humans to want to be happy, it's almost our basic instinct and the best way to do that is to grow and gain strengths. It makes everything better. They don't say "Survival of the Fittest" for nothing, it's just that they should say "the fittest character".

How do I grow or gain strength? First you have to find which strength you're lacking and study it. Study what it is, how the strength helps you and others, how a person acts when they have it and how a person reacts to someone with it. Observe someone with it and follow them for a while seeing how they use it too. Once you know these things you can exercise the correct ways to grow and gain your strength, of course, your habits of weakness will come back now and then but persistence and positive thinking defeats weakness. And Persistence is the best strength to have, it's the strength that doesn't quit, doesn't back down and doesn't give up!

"Who is strong? He that can conquer his bad habits..."
- Benjamin Franklin



"What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.