

Benefits of Connecting to Adults by Olen Fitts

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There is a huge benefit to developing relationships with adults. I think it's not only something we want but something we need to be successful and to be able to have a different insight on life. I think that adults feel as if we're so different from each other or that we as the youth won't understand the message they're trying to get across because we don't share the same interest as the adults. I'm sure we can all agree that adults and youth don't exactly see eye to eye on everything, but that's the way of life.

Every day the world changes and is making advancements. For example, almost everyone's life depends on technology like computers, cell phones, television, gaming systems, iPods, radios etc. A couple hundred years ago, those things were unheard of and life was more basic (and a little boring if you ask me). Somewhere along the way someone had to think, "Life is ok but it can be better. We need improvements to make the ideal life". So I'm here to say "Life is ok but it can be better and the way is through the adults".

As the world evolves, we evolve with it. We become interested in the latest trends. We start to dress differently, talk differently, and become interested in different things. Some things become more important and some less. But one thing that doesn't change are the problems we face in high school. I think each generation gets worse because at one point I think the relationships with adults were up to 100 percent but as the years pass by, these relationships become less and less important. As the number drops on our relationships with adults, the harder it becomes to go to an adult to get help on the problems we face as young adults. This puts youth in the situation to say "If the adults won't listen to me or guide me in the right direction, then who will"? That's when we start desperately looking for the attention we need and I believe that can cause many of the problems we have today like teen pregnancy, drug use, alcohol use, teens getting involved with the court systems, gang involvement, jail and worst case scenario, even death.

We depend on the adults to motivate us and let us know that we matter. Who else can guide you in the right direction better than someone who has lived the life we have before, or have had first hand lessons learned through experience? Adults have a mature mind frame set and can set an example for us. When you have a baby, they watch you and repeat the things you do. We do the same things we see a parent do. If they think it is ok, we think it is ok. So, we need more positive role models and adults to try to make better relationships with their children. When developing a relationship with youth, the younger the kids, the better. If you can get them to get their minds focused on sports, academics, and relationships with families, the harder it will be for drugs, alcohol and gangs to get to them.

If the relationships are better, it makes it easier for us to come to the adults and express ourselves. Many times I never voiced what I thought because I thought "What would it hurt if one voice wasn't heard" or felt that my opinion didn't matter. I even wondered if it was heard, would it matter or be listened to? But the truth is that all it takes is that one voice or opinion to change things. I'm here to say, "Life is ok but it can be better!"