

Our chapter 11 topic for discussion was related to a new stage of development called “emerging adulthood”. We were to state our opinion on whether or not we felt this was a necessary stage to add in the lifespan, and what our experience during this time in our life was, and how it shaped who we are today.

Christine Gardner

I think it is necessary to add this stage of development because it seems to have originated and grown within the last 20 or so years. Our text says that globalization, technology and medical advances have helped with this developmental emergence, and it's easy to see why. I think when I was in my late teens, early 20's (I'm 42 now) the same thoughts crossed my mind about being young and not knowing what I wanted to do, it was a time of exploration and not wanting to be limited by what Oma may have wanted me to do or by having to go to school every day. It's almost like your first taste of real freedom and you have nothing to hold you back. You almost feel invincible. I think it's healthy to feel like this because you are only young once, and being a "real" adult and having responsibility really makes up the bulk of life. If emerging adults are able to, they should be able to enjoy this time in their life and make the most of it, learn from it, because like childhood, it is a time that will never come back and that just doesn't last long enough. It's a sure sign of old age when you think "kids these days are in such a hurry to grow up!". I always tell my kids to enjoy this time in their lives because it's so short, and reality will set in quickly enough. This emerging adulthood is like coming to terms with that imminent reality but being able to enjoy life as much as possible until you feel the time is right to leave it behind. I'm not saying to give up all the things this time in life brings, I'm just saying when emerging adults decide to settle down or go to school and choose a career, I think they will be more prepared for it and be able to enjoy time even more, and continue with the experiences that fostered this growth and share them with others.

Jul 5, 2012

Christine Gardner

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=JW5UEW2kYvc



Jul 5, 2012

Christine Gardner

My song would be Alan Jackson's Chattahoochee....just a living for the minute! :)

Jul 5, 2012

Hannah

I agree with the fact that you only live young once, but I was wondering what your emerging adult experience was? Did you have a similar experience to what you want your kids to experience? Seems like if you do as you say and hold nothing back there will be some major consequences down the road. I guess it depends on the person but If I were to hold nothing back at that stage in my life I think I would have gotten myself in some major trouble that may have had some life long consequences. Seems to me that there may be a balance between experiencing and learning for future decisions that will be made, so maybe hold back a little?

Jul 6, 2012

Christine Gardner

My emerging adult experience was very hard, and I don't even feel like I had one. I had to grow up fast. I moved out when I was 18, first I moved in with my mother who got physical when she drank, so I left after a month and moved into a little apartment. I left home because Oma wouldn't let me in the door when I got off work at midnight, and wouldn't give me a key. There were a few times I had to sleep in my car. I started school when I was 20. Oma got sick and had a stroke; I found her alone one morning on her chair when she wouldn't answer the phone. She was placed in a nursing home and I was her legal guardian and was responsible for her finances, her house, and her medical care, among other things, and eventually her funeral. I had a full time job. My paternal grandparents lived in AZ for the winters and had asked me to take care of their house while they were gone. I had 3 places to take care of, was going to school (eventually failing out because it was low on the priority list), worked, had no close friends, no parents to help me make decisions, and no money with suddenly a lot more responsibility than I ever could have imagined. I never said to hold nothing back; I'm saying I want my kids to be able to enjoy their youth as much as possible, because I never did. I like this song because it's about being carefree and living in the moment. If you're careful and enjoying life and not hurting anyone, there's nothing wrong with that. I don't want my kids to have my experience. It was awful. I dealt with what life gave me at the time because I had to, and I didn't mind doing it, I'm saying it was hard, and in some ways I think I have suffered from it. I'm a sad person anyway, and if I could change things I certainly would. I made bad decisions relationship wise, but I just didn't ever know any better. I want to help

my kids with whatever they need so that they start off on the right foot, and aren't thrown into adulthood not knowing anything like I was.

Jul 6, 2012

Trisha

I get what you are saying Christine. I want my little man to enjoy life and cherish each stage. If I listened to what others are doing, he would be forced to grow up. From the time they are infants, it seems parents are in a competition - who will lose the binky first, next is the ba ba, then he needs to be potty trained over a weekend... I have always been, and will continue to be, a free spirit so I support "being carefree and living [responsibly] in the moment."

I chose to place my contribution to this discussion into my portfolio because I think it helps explain who I am. This was such a difficult time for me in my life, and sharing it with my classmates was therapeutic. They have taught me so much about inner strength, and they showed me the resiliency and ability people have in overcoming challenges and adversity, and they inspired me. Each person reacts and evolves differently throughout life, to its ups and downs, peaks and valleys. I feel like these discussions have provided a safe forum to be able to share a little piece of myself with others that I may have been afraid to otherwise, free of criticism and judgment. We can all learn and benefit from the wisdom of other people's experiences.