

## **Too Cool** by Matt - Edina, Minnesota

Kids my age are too cool. They're too cool for family love, they're too cool for courteousness, and (although it's a cliché,) they're too cool for school. They simply find a reason that something isn't as cool as they are. They see everything as being below them, not worth recognition. This I believe. Why do I believe this? I am one of them and I don't like it.

It's not just one kid, pressuring everyone to see as he or she does; it's the rebellious trend among today's adolescents. Adding to the discontent for the world is the brutal system of classes within all aspects of adolescent life. Religion groups, Boy Scouts, sports teams, and the most notorious, school. Groups of kids are quickly made, old alliances lost, new ones gained. Old friends cut and run, stabbing others in the back just to climb the social ladder. I have watched my friends turn on me, as well as I have done to others. I don't feel proud of it, and it is my hope that others feel poorly as well. Why? It's because it's the first step to a new way of life.

I believe while my generation is hostile, we are still good inside. But we know that the most popular kids won't like what we have to say. And even if they do, they won't show that they care for fear of their fellow "nobles" actually resenting what they say and putting them down. This is the vicious cycle, if you will, that keeps our lifestyle that of a verbal battlefield.

The reason I wrote this essay was because it was assigned in class. I of course pretended that I hated the assignment's guts, but actually I didn't mind doing it all that much. I like to write, either about what I think or fiction, but I hate being told what to write about. This assignment gave me some "elbow room," so I took all I could, and let it out. I could have submitted this essay under an anonymous title, and remain too cool for "This I Believe." But, I'm taking the first step to eliminating cool, and leaving my name for the world to see, because I'm hostile, and I don't like it. We're hostile and we don't like it. This I believe.

### **For Discussion or Writing:**

1. Do you agree or disagree with the first statement: "Kids my age are too cool." Why or why not?
2. Matt states: "I am one of them and I don't like it." Underline that statement and then place dots under the words or phrases that support his belief on why he doesn't like it.
3. Describe the "vicious cycle" that Matt mentions. Underline "vicious cycle", then place checkmarks on all of his phrase or single word descriptors of the "vicious cycle".
4. Tell what you think is strong evidence to cause this "too cool" trait to happen for teens.