Different Colors and Shades of My True Personality

At some point in everybody's life they will get socialized, either negatively or positively or maybe even both. We get socialized, but at the same time we are socializing each other, even your closest friends and family. Socialization is having a culture with set beliefs and values.There are six main agent groups of socialization that people are put into, either as a target or an agent : family, school, media, peers, religion, and sports. Being an agent means you were born "lucky" with many different privileges, whereas a target is the opposite, you would be born "unlucky" with minimal to no privileges or advantages. We all have our strong and weak points. As a young female in this day and age I have been a target in many of these categories. In the article *Why Are Women So Insecure* it argues, "Society also puts a lot of pressure on women to have the perfect body, skin, hair and the perfect tan. Many women have not learned how to accept themselves outside of the norm of what is being projected onto them." For me, this quote really touches on the point that if we don't feel like we fit into the stereotypes, we learn to be self conscious, insecure and not accepting of ourselves. As a female teenager I have been socialized to think that I need fake beauty products, cute clothes, certain emotions, disrespect towards others, and technology to be a part of the regular generalized crowd of teenagers.

By being a female, all the social media, peer and family pressure, and music, has made me insecure about myself. When I was little, I wanted to be just like my sisters. They had fallen into the standard for girls, they wanted to wear makeup, needed certain clothes, etc. They thought that they needed to be fake and made-up because the media has been trying to get us to believe that that's the only type of beauty. I looked up to my sisters, but I don't understand why someone as beautiful and pure as them feel like they are imperfect. And because of that, I automatically learned to think that there had to be something wrong with me, because we will always have faults, we have learned to focus on all the "wrong" things about us, all the things that we don't have, all the things that the fake, perfect models in commercials and magazines have that we don't. This world expects you to fit into the general population of hot, perfect, attractive, skinny standards. In the article *Magazines' Influence on the Socialization of Teen Girls and Young Women it states,* "Teenagers are still trying to determine who they are, and for this reason, they are especially vulnerable to the information and suggestive images in magazines." The transition into becoming a young female is one of our most vulnerable times, and having the media pressure us into wanting to look a certain way can really affect us. All these standards and generalizations that socialize us are not only from the media and family/peers but also in a lot of the music we listen to. For example, in the

song *Shape Of You* by Ed Sheeran he sings the lyrics, "Although my heart is falling too, I'm in love with your body". To me this says that he might like her personality but her body is a big aspect when it comes to how he feels about her. Some guys feel like the outside appearance of girls matter more than her personality, but I think that it shouldn't. Even if guys don't think girls are beautiful on the outside, they might be on the inside. People set standards, expectations, and generalizations and as a female it makes me insecure about myself.

As a teenager in the 21st century, I have been socialized to think that I need to be disrespectful, moody, dramatic, and obsessed with technology to be part of the general teenage life. *Inside the Teenage Brain,* a documentary about teenagers, by Front Line, claims, "We think that the dramatic changes in mood, for example, a child having an outburst in one moment and then being very calm and happy the next, is due in part to changes in hormones." This may be mostly true with evidence from scientific experiments that were conducted similar to the ones in the documentary, but adults sometimes take our transitions into puberty and blame any and all behaviors we have on it and ignore that there might be other reasons. I just want to express my emotions and feelings, but I don't know how to get an adult to listen. I get yelled at often because I have so much going on in my head and I don't know how to express it the way my parents expect so that they can realize that even though I am a teenager, I still have to go through a lot. Adults also seem to generalize teenagers together and not see them as individuals . They think that all teenagers are the same. When teenagers act maturely, adults assume they must be older. Just because I am a teenager doesn't mean I have to fit into all the negative stereotypes about teenagers. To fit into adults expectations, you need to have a certain level of immaturity.

In order to fit into society as a female, I need to conform to a typical type of beautiful that is fake, that is made up of make-up, clothes, money, sexually driven thoughts and actions, but since I'm not, it makes me second guess myself and be insecure about who I am and how I look. To be a part of the regular generalized group of teens in this country in the 21st century, I need to be a rude, self absorbed, drug addicted, obnoxious teen. What happens if I don't fit into that group? One main way I think I could change and not push myself into fitting into the standards, is to except myself into standards I have for myself. Not only adults, but even my closest friends and family, have made me think I have to look, act and be a certain person just to fit into a generalization that our country has created. In the article *The Cycle of Socialization,* it shows shows a diagram of the Cycle of Socialization. It has 6 steps, the Beginning, First socialization, Institutional and cultural socialization, Enforcements, Results, and then there is an option to branch off and go towards the Direction for change or you could

finish the cycle with Actions and then start repeating it. Normally, I would just repeat the cycle because that's what I'm used to and I don't have enough confidence to want to branch off. But going a separate better way, towards the change is what will motivate and shape me for the better. What will start the process of me shaping myself into who I want to be?