

LESSON ONE

DISCUSSION

This may seem like it has nothing to do with drugs, but please suspend judgment.

Please read the essay “The Unhappy Young People”. Then consider these points enough so that you could speak about them to someone other than yourself.

1. The author proposes the idea that children have to pay for the mistakes of their parents and that this may make them unhappy. Do you agree with this idea? If you do, could you describe to someone else a situation where this might happen? If you disagree, could you explain to someone else why you disagree?
2. The author grew up in Europe between the two World Wars which devastated the landscape and changed the whole world forever. There were two competing ideologies in this war: Communism and Fascism. Research the roots of these. Who “invented” them? Are they related? Are they still around today?
3. The author goes on to say that a third ideology more powerful than these other two is threatening the entire earth and robbing everyone of happiness. What is this ideology he speaks of? Is it still around?
4. The author comments on the unhappiness of the young generation. What evidence does he give for his argument?
5. What evidence exists in our own culture to support his point?

PREPARE YOURSELF

6. Please research a school shooting or other incident of teenage violence and/or depression that made national headlines, and prepare your own version of the incident including possible motives the teen had for committing the act. (This is not about gun control, this is about an existential crisis).

TO THINK ABOUT:

Do you agree with the author's conclusion about the worst mistake his generation made?