



Kalamazoo Wraps News

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH COLLABORATION

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Does Age Define Intelligence?

By: Joshua U

Josh is a 13 year old working hard to triumph over anxiety and other mental health challenges. He is dedicated to using his experiences to provide a valuable youth voice to the system of care.

Humans are a vast and interesting species. They share theories, emotions, and the willingness to solve the many problems of life. Even though we do have many positive ideas and theories we also have many negative and somewhat ignorant ones as well. One of these ignorant theories is about how most of us believe that intelligence can be determined by one's age. The problem with this is that kids today are not able to be heard or expressed due to their age.

I feel that adults have put an age label on anyone under 18 and anyone over 60. "Treat your elders with respect" is a quote I heard from my family for a long time. They said that a person age 60 and older (which is considered an elder or old person in my family) are much smarter and have much more experience. I find that to be very false. Older people had an old [longer] life but it does not mean that they are smarter or have much more expertise in certain situations. An example would be how a man could work at a meat factory until he is 70 and I could work in at a chocolate factory for a year. Does that mean he knows more about chocolate than me? Most likely not, yet he is older, meaning just because he's older doesn't mean he is smarter or wiser than me.

The same goes for kids and teens that are labeled by their age. Adults will ignore and ridicule many of the theories and thoughts of kids. I want to put something in perspective, we are all humans, we all have hearts that beat as one and we all have a brain that we use ten percent of. Can't we put aside our age and actually think of each other as humans; as a species; as people who share theories, emotions, and a willingness to solve life's problems? If we can, than maybe we can solve this problem that many adults do not realize, and than maybe we can treat each other like equals and partners.

For more information about Calling All Youth, please contact Jacalyn Paulding at 269-343-5896.