

# The shift to a softer society

Today's society is growing soft, and it's time for a change.

By: Mia Laube @mia\_laube21

In this ever-evolving world, it's impossible to avoid change. New products come out, different world leaders are elected, and the philosophy of people is in a constant forward motion. Not every development or way of thinking always seems good, though.

One apparent shift is that the toughness in our society has decreased. To put it plainly, many people are soft.

This includes a variety of concerns. People are oversensitive, there's less discipline for the youth, kids feel everything will be handed to them, and everything that goes wrong is given an excuse or outside point of blame.

First of all, people are increasingly sensitive. One cannot say anything without it sounding too harsh or offensive. Parents are moving away from giving "tough love" to their children and coddling them instead. Teachers or coaches can't be too up-front when bettering or disciplining students, or the student will be shocked as if the truth wasn't candy coated enough for them.

Our society is too worried about what people want to hear and how people's feelings will be hurt. This oversensitivity makes it easy for kids to talk back, for people to act out and for respect for adults and each other to decrease.

Another problem is the lack of discipline millennials display. Being a member of that age group, it seems as if a lot of kids don't try anymore. Of course there are always hard working people, but if something is too difficult, the ones who aren't quit and nobody bats an eye. It's important at this time in our lives to be pushed and try new approaches. Being lazy is not one of them.

Along with that, a lot of people have a sense of entitlement. It's dumbfounding how some people expect things to be handed to them. A student may complain about a teacher

not giving them respect and talk poorly about them when in reality, they acted disrespectfully and did nothing to earn it. Athletes who don't put in extra work still become upset if they don't get the coveted spot on the team. Things in life don't come free. However, effort is rewarded, and the ones at the top rarely got there on natural ability or luck.

One final issue is the amount of excuses that often come out of people's mouths. It wasn't the teacher's fault the test grade was bad. It wasn't the alarm clock's fault the individual was late. It wasn't the referee's fault the game was lost. More often than not, excuses are made up only by us to justify our own faults to ourselves. There's typically a way to change the outcome of a situation: preparedness, hard work, or mental toughness for example.

As a society, we need to buckle down and see our faults. It's important to look in the mirror and assess ourselves instead of receiving constant praise. There are a few people that still don't know life isn't an easy pathway paved with kind words and a light workload. Don't be soft.



Do:	.....	Don't:
Go the extra mile	.....	Give an abundance of excuses
Practice Discipline	.....	Quit difficult tasks
Embrace competition	.....	Believe to be above being respectful to others
Accept constructive criticism	.....	Only listen to praise and become offended by criticism
Prioritize respect and responsibility	.....	

# Is 25 minutes enough?

By: Chloe Mallon @chhhloe17

When students start high school, work can be overbearing and tedious. There are lots of assignments and projects that incoming students school might not be used to, and their one outlet in the day is lunch time. The joys of being able to go and join friends at a lunch table and vent about how awful certain classes days are is one of the only things that gets students through the day.

Unfortunately, at Marion students only receive a twenty-five minute lunch. How is that at all a suitable amount of time to eat lunch? It's not. The worst part of this lunch debacle, though, is that there is only one lunch line. That's right, one line for around one hundred and fifty students. Granted, lots of students bring lunch or leave, but what about the students that don't?

Some students just want to be able to enjoy their walking taco or cheese bread in a normal amount of time, but after waiting in the line for about half of the lunch period, students must rush to shove food down their throats and trot off to their next class.

Only having one lunch line is extremely inconvenient for the students, but also must be for the lunch ladies. With over half of the student body all charging to grab their yogurt parfaits and bags of chips at once, it must be overwhelming.

Last year in the lunchroom there was a salad bar. This salad bar was taken away, and since then the line that it occupied has not been used. What is the point in having an area where students could be

getting food when it is not being put to use?

The solution to this problem at lunch can be solved in two different ways. Either students need a longer lunch period to be able to enjoy their food after waiting in an obnoxious line, or the other line not being used needs to be opened. There could be volunteers to help students gain silver cord hours and working experience, and also aid the staff.

It is ridiculous to expect students to be that patient in a lunch line or to have to eat their food at the pace of a food-eating contest. Lunch is supposed to be a great outlet and time period for students to see friends they might not have classes with and to grab a healthy meal before learning more information, not a race down the hallway to be at the front of the line.



"I don't think it matters, as long as we get food."  
-Brennan Erkel '20



"It'd be nice if there were two lines, it would go faster."  
-Grace Byers, '19



"Since there are two windows there should be two lines."  
-Lindsey Miller, '18

# How much does age matter?

By: Corrina Dittmer @CorrinaDittmer\_

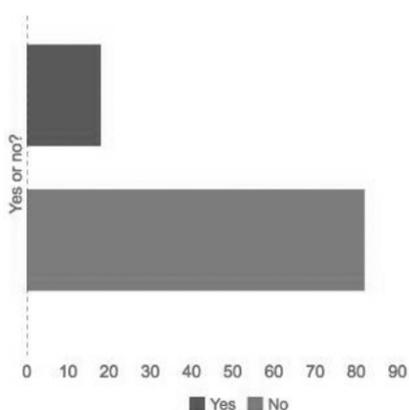
With the 2016 presidential election taking place, students want a say in who will run our country. Teens pay an estimate of almost ten billion in sales taxes, but aren't allowed to vote. High schoolers 14 or older should be able to vote because they pay taxes and have valuable views and opinions.

Youths are subject to adult criminal penalties despite lacking the right to vote. At the height of the Vietnam War, most Americans realized the sickness in sending 18 year olds to fight and die for their country when they couldn't participate in choosing our leaders. Some teens have to spend time in jail for breaking a law they have no say in. Being penalized with adult charges isn't the only reason teens should be allowed to vote.

High school students have a unique perspective and different concerns than adults. Would it be acceptable to limit the right to vote based on someone's income? No, it wouldn't. So why is voting based on someone's age? Many adults reason that teens should have to wait a few years until they are more mature. Americans with low income would only have to wait a few years until they make more money or work

harder. Voters vote based on their individual circumstances. The concerns of a 14 year old and a 40 year old are different, as are those of a poor man and a rich man. If adults care at all about the needs and desires of youth, they must be allowed to vote for themselves.

Many people argue that high school students and even adults who don't care about the government or our president and laws shouldn't vote. Those teens who do care should wait until they're 18, more mature, and know what they're voting for. If children are the future, shouldn't teens



100 students voted whether or not students should be able to vote right when they turn high school age.

have a say? All people are affected by the decisions politicians make; allowing teens to vote allows them to have a say in their future. Adults don't want teens to vote because they claim they don't care, but the ones who don't care probably wouldn't anyway. By not taking this away from teens for fear of irresponsibility, we prevent the ones who do care from having their opinion heard.

High school students should be allowed to have a say in who is making their life impacting decisions that affect their future. Some teens may not care, wouldn't be mature, or would just vote as a joke, but their needs and perspectives are still valuable and could help make an impact in their and others' future. Contact local senators or congressman to help make the opinion of the younger generations count.

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