



Growing Up and Growing Older

Each of the following statements expresses a stereotype about a group of people defined only as "they." **In the blank next to each number**, indicate whether you think a young person is talking about older people (**OP**) or an older person is talking about young people (**YP**).

- ___ 1. They always stick together and keep their distance from other age groups.
- ___ 2. I hate the way they drive. They're a menace on the road.
- ___ 3. They're always taking and never giving. They think the world owes them a living.
- ___ 4. They're so opinionated. They think they know it all.
- ___ 5. They're never satisfied, always complaining about something.
- ___ 6. Don't hire them because you can't depend on them.
- ___ 7. They always hang around the parks and shopping malls.
- ___ 8. They're always so forgetful.
- ___ 9. I wish I had as much freedom as they have.
- ___ 10. They should act their age.



Teacher Hints

Small-Group Discussion

Which of the above statements represent common stereotypes of young people?
Of older people? Of both?

Class Discussion

As a teenager, have you ever experienced or known anyone who experienced prejudice or discrimination based on age? (Possible occasions are when applying for a job, renting an apartment, or trying to participate in an activity intended for another age group.)

Both younger and older people can be the victims of prejudice and discrimination based on age. In what other ways is growing up similar to growing old?

What can be done about age-based prejudice and discrimination? How might older and younger people work together on this problem?

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Web site: <http://www.unt.edu/natla>.