

Race-based stereotypes and myths pose a great threat to racial equality. That's because they can lead to prejudice and hatred, which, in turn, lead to discrimination against entire ethnic groups.

Over time, politics and economics turned the "Garden of the World" from an image of a garden paradise into a story of laborious reward. If people were willing to work the land, they would supposedly be rewarded with bountiful harvests. After the Civil War, railroad officials and land speculators attempted to attract new settlers to the Great Plains. To promote the supposedly "healthy" farmland, people interested in settling in the region were presented with crop statistics, personal testimonials, and lyrical promises. The settling of the Great Plains brought the aspects of "civilization" to the garden in order to create a higher standard of living for all parties involved. Despite progressive technological innovations, the land of the Great Plains often demanded total commitment before it would fulfill its promise of fertility. The "Great American Desert": Unlike the accounts of Lewis and Clark, many explorers condemned the Great Plains as being desolate and uninhabitable. The Stephen Long expedition of 1820, as a result of poor preparation, experienced adverse circumstances and dissatisfaction with the land. Chronicling his adventures, Long described the region as being "almost wholly unfit for cultivation, and, of course, uninhabitable by a people depending upon agriculture for subsistence. The concept of the "Great American Desert" was enhanced by discontentment with the "Garden of the World" myth. As the American edge of the frontier began moving further west, enterprising businessmen endeavored to combat the idea of sterility via misleading promotions. After being lured to the Great Plains by false and elaborate promises, many people realized that they were unprepared for the work it would take to establish farms or businesses on the plains. Stereotypes can literally create a map of the United States. Picture courtesy of prettypenny Many people, seeing Manifest Destiny as giving the United States the right to control the entire American continent, began to believe that it was their duty to establish civilization in the howling emptiness of the Great Plains. Although America did not have much of a toehold in its new territory, Native Americans had been inhabitants of the area for hundreds of years. From vast landscapes to biased portrayals of American Indians, artists sought to capture the optimistic spirit of expansion in a medium that would lend credibility to the myth itself. In addition, the nineteenth century saw the birth of the literary genre of Western fiction. These tales of the "Wild West" explored the subordination of the wilderness with characters such as cowboys often serving as protagonists and the effects of such conquest upon American civilization. As writers began penning stories of the Great Plains circa 1850, the myths of the "Garden of the West" and "Manifest Destiny" had already begun to fade into history. As officially stated in the U. S. Census of 1890, the frontier was at last closed. According to Harold Simonson author of *The Closed Frontier*, the image of the closed frontier acts as a metaphor for American tragedy; in this form of heartbreak, the finite nature of progress and possibilities is grudgingly recognized. Instead of a limitless frontier, there is a wall. The tension comes from the illusory prospect of the one and the certitude of the other. The myth of the safety valve was an appeal supported by Eastern philanthropists and businessmen in which they encouraged the poor and the less desirable --such as orphans, destitute children, members of lower social classes, and foreign immigrants-- to move to the Great Plains. By believing the Great Plains to act as a societal "safety valve," Easterners began to deride those who chose to settle in the West. Immigrants found the West to act as a problematic safety valve. Acceptance was based on wealth, not social class; however, barriers of language and custom cut off new arrivals from familiar community and culture. Many of these new settlers began to realize that it was difficult to preserve a native culture that does not conform to American society. Disillusioned by the ideas of the "Garden of the West," "Manifest Destiny," and "social valve," people began to transform their vision of the Great Plains. Rather than dreamers or social outcasts, they envisioned strong men and women willing to transform homesteads and farms on marginal land into communities. As stated by Emerson and Whitman, the West was an autonomous utopia in which small farmers would be committed to creating a society based on the equality of land and work. This concept emphasizes that hard work, thriftiness, and sacrifice would be rewarded with Divine blessings of ownership, security, and equality. Its Meaning in American Culture. University Press of Kansas,

15 March Retrieved 6 May The Great Plains Region, In: Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, pp. The Nature of the Place: A Study of Great Plains Fiction. University of Nebraska Press,

Chapter 2 : Stereotypes, Myths and Facts - GBMS Peer Tutoring

Therefore, expressing stereotypes that men are agentic and hard-working effectively keeps men in the top tiers of companies, whereas stereotypes of women as compassionate, empathic, and nurturing.

Some of the most well known are centered around the arts which include anything from the tortured artist to the eccentric and isolated writer. Am I saying the picture of the writer that closes themselves in a cabin alone up in the mountains to write a best seller in a month is not true? Of course, I am. That is pure silly nonsense. In fact, the vast majority of these pervasive assumptions are untrue and should probably go the way of the dinosaurs—extinct. No, no no no no no no no. Did I mention no? We can not let ourselves get stuck in the endless loop of over expectations brought on by untrue silly hogwash. It can set them up for failure and send them retreating before they even get started. This is the story of the best selling author that shuts themselves up in their home in the mountains, the beach, the insert-whatever-setting-you-want. They refuse to see anyone, even family that comes knocking just to visit with their long-lost loved one who they fear may never return to civilization. Months and months go by with no word from them. When suddenly, they emerge, haggard and looking like someone that just went weeks without bathing. In their hand is a finished manuscript, not one error, not one un-needed sentence, no detail out of place. Shutting yourself off from the rest of the world is not a good way to live, let alone write. You will not succeed by isolating yourself. Even Stephen King, the great master of thriller and horrors, advises: See people, go places, drink if you feel like it. No need to be a hermit, go party like your writing depends on it. You just have to keep climbingpsiloveyou. I struggle daily with grammar; it has never come easily to me, and I have to use a site like grammarly. Those of you out there with mad grammar skills can still probably pinpoint many flaws in this article alone that in my ignorance, I have overlooked. Grammar and lousy sentence structure halt my reading as I stare for a moment to understand what is being said before moving on. This continues, over and over I run into glaring errors. Eventually, I put the book down and move on to another. Proper grammar and editing are essential to any written piece. Good Writing Only Happens with Inspiration source: I have been guilty of this in the past and have had to push through it. I have set a goal for myself to write at least one article a week. This keeps me practicing and keeps the creative juices flowing. Well, I have a lot of responsibilities on my shoulders right now. Full-time job, Masters classes, and a two-year-old. So, I suppose I should say I write for fun at least once a week. Regardless, my point is: Are there people with exceptional natural ability? Of course, there are. Some people are just gifted for that specific task. Having to work harder and learn writing is not a reason to stop. Like I mentioned above, I struggle with grammar and yet I still have managed to write multiple pieces for Medium and have had them published in some publications. As long as you work and continue to improve, there is no reason not to write if that is what you genuinely want to do. I lived under these myths and stereotypes for so long before finally breaking free. No one person is the same, we all do things differently to reach similar goals. Do what makes you happy and helps you grow in your writing. While there are some things you should probably pay attention to, like grammar, writing is open to fluidity, and you can mold it how you like. If you enjoyed this, you may also enjoy:

The Myths and Stereotypes of Aging Ageist stereotypes about seniors are unfortunately pervasive in our culture. In films, on television and even in the jokes we hear, misconceptions about aging and seniors are ever present.

The president had been discussing immigration policy with the lawmakers and suggested that the US focus on bringing in people from countries like Norway over those from African countries. This is not the first time the president has allegedly made such comments. Here are 15 other debunked myths about African countries. Africa is poor, and always will be. However, this number is falling, and things are getting better. Did you know that 6 of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world are African? Africa is all savannah and wild animals. Whilst congratulating the US World Cup team on a victory over Ghana, they used a photo of a giraffe to represent the African nation. Unfortunately for Delta there are in fact no wild giraffes in Ghana, and the Twitter community was quick to alert them to this. Delta Africa is not a big bush full of wild Animals. There are no giraffes in Ghana, you narrow-minded nincompoops! However, this highlights how widely such stereotypes are still accepted and perpetuated in Western media. Yes, there are a whole host of exciting wild animals, and gorgeous savannahs, in some regions of Africa. However, there are also huge cities, rolling beaches, historic ancient monuments and more. Take a look, for example, at this stunning snowy landscape on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania! Africans have no access to modern technology. Technology in Africa is actually an incredibly fast growing market, with many global technology giants making big investments in the continent. Did you know that people in Kenya are 4 times more likely to own a mobile phone than to have access to a toilet or latrine? Mobile technology is also being used in very innovative and exciting ways to help end extreme poverty across Africa. Check out this story of mobile insurance creating financial stability for people in Ghana! Bedford Biofuels There are so many arguments against this presumption. Let me focus on one - many African countries are far ahead of Western countries in terms of sustainable energy use. Africans do nothing to help themselves Dr. Hawa Abdi and her daughters. Photo from the Dr Hawa Abdi Foundation. The stereotype of African people as helpless and dependent on Western help is one that has been built by decades of well meaning but arguably dangerous charity advertisements in the West. The debate around how development charities should advertise is a complex one, but these photos often ignore the fact that African people can and do help themselves. Yes, you read that right - African people who now live outside the continent send more money back to their families than the whole Western world sends in aid. There are also countless examples of grassroot projects established by African people, for African people. One is Hawa Abdi , an incredible Somalian woman who established a health clinic in the s. English is also an official language in 24 African nations and taught to a high level in schools across the continent. African men always carry machine guns This brilliant video by Mama Hope is made by African men, dispelling myths about themselves. Did this Justine Sacco person just say that? Did she really fix her keyboard to type that mess? However, this appallingly insensitive tweet represents a terrible stereotype that is all too common. Not everybody in Africa is sick. Furthermore, we should treat those who do suffer from HIV, or any other illness, the way we would want to be treated - with dignity and respect. All governance in Africa is bad. Photo from More Than Me. Let me dispel this myth with an example of one leader who is making incredible progress for her country. The current President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is an inspirational woman who is leading Liberia out of the devastating damage caused by civil war, and kicking ass at it. Everyone in Africa lives in a mud house in the middle of nowhere. Embed from Getty Images Where would you guess this city is? Nope - this is Lagos, in Nigeria, and it has a population of 21 million - more than double that of urban London! Every 60 seconds bad things happen all over the world, not just in Africa. But an awful lot of good things happen too!

Chapter 4 : 15 Reasons African Countries Aren't 'Shitholes'

Myths, Stereotypes, and Racism Read the following 9 statements about Indigenous Peoples, and select "Myth" or "Fact." As you go through the remainder of Section 3, think about these myths.

African American Myth and Stereotypes: Racial Profiling Wendy Horton Kaplan University A stereotype is an exaggerated belief about a group that can be positive or negative but generalizes without allowing for differences Louisiana Voices, One example of a stereotype would be racial profiling. These crime stories, might indeed, involve African American males, but not all crimes are committed by African Americans. A few myths are to blame for this certain stereotyping. One myth is that most crimes are committed by African Americans. Another myth would be that African Americans are preying on White Americans in our country. There could be some truth to these myths but most likely they are just over exaggerated. This is simply a stereotype about African Americans that dates back for many years. After such a long period in slavery and being discriminated against constantly, African Americans decided to take a stand for their race. They begin fighting for their freedom and rights as individuals and as a minority group Library of Congress, Unknown Year. In actuality, the African Americans were just standing up for their own rights to individual freedom and liberties. This stand was known as the Civil Rights Movement, which lasted from to African Americans came out of the Civil Rights Movement wanting to define themselves and their own culture. New styles of politics, music, clothing, folktales, hairstyles, cuisines, literature, theology and arts were all present at the end of the Civil Rights Movement. These all represented change and a turning point for African American equal rights in America. With the voting rights won in , African Americans now had a bigger say in politics. African Americans had some big support in protesting for their rights. They were spokes persons for their whole race of people. Great legends as these helped win the rights for their people. Their legacy and memories will live on and be passed down for many generations. Therefore, in our world today, African Americans have more rights and freedom. However, the myth that African Americans are trouble makers or criminals and cannot be trusted carries on. These myths and stereotypes will carry on for many more years as history is passed on from one generation to the next. I do not believe our world will allow these myths and stereotypes to be dispelled. I do not see that this is at all possible. There are too many racist people still left in our world today. They teach it to their children and coming generations. I believe there will always be racial profiling and myths that will never end or go away. Myths and stereotypes are what defines us and who we all are, no matter our skin color, gender or religion. They will continue to exist and define our world. In fact, each year, more myths and stereotypes are formed. Myths and stereotypes will live on. I would want myths and stereotypes to live on. These are the things that define us as individuals and groups. If it were not for these things, many of us would not know who we were truly. These things are what life is made of and will continue to be.

Chapter 5 : Myths and Stereotypes - New York Essays

Myth and Stereotypes: Racial Profiling Wendy Horton Kaplan University A stereotype is an exaggerated belief about a group that can be positive or negative but generalizes without allowing for differences (Louisiana Voices,).

People with disabilities are brave and courageous. Adjusting to a disability requires adapting to a lifestyle, not bravery and courage. All persons who use wheelchairs are chronically ill or sickly. The association between wheelchair use and illness may have evolved through hospitals using wheelchairs to transport sick people. A person may use a wheelchair for a variety of reasons, none of which may have anything to do with lingering illness. Wheelchair use is confining; people who use wheelchairs are "wheelchair-bound. A wheelchair, like a bicycle or an automobile, is a personal assistive device that enables someone to get around. All persons with hearing disabilities can read lips. Lip-reading skills vary among people who use them and are never entirely reliable. People who are blind acquire a "sixth sense. Although most people who are blind develop their remaining senses more fully, they do not have a "sixth sense. People with disabilities are more comfortable with "their own kind. In the past, grouping people with disabilities in separate schools and institutions reinforced this misconception. Today, many people with disabilities take advantage of new opportunities to join mainstream society. Non-disabled people are obligated to "take care of" people with disabilities. Anyone may offer assistance, but most people with disabilities prefer to be responsible for themselves. Curious children should never ask people about their disabilities. Many children have a natural, uninhibited curiosity and may ask questions that some adults consider embarrassing. But scolding curious children may make them think having a disability is "wrong" or "bad. The lives of people with disabilities are totally different than the lives of people without disabilities. People with disabilities go to school, get married, work, have families, do laundry, grocery shop, laugh, cry, pay taxes, get angry, have prejudices, vote, plan and dream like everyone else. It is all right for people without disabilities to park in accessible parking spaces, if only for a few minutes. Because accessible parking spaces are designed and situated to meet the needs of people who have disabilities, these spaces should only be used by people who need them. Most people with disabilities cannot have sexual relationships. Anyone can have a sexual relationship by adapting the sexual activity. People with disabilities can have children naturally or through adoption. People with disabilities, like other people, are sexual beings. People with disabilities always need help. Many people with disabilities are independent and capable of giving help. If you would like to help someone with a disability, ask if he or she needs it before you act. There is nothing one person can do to help eliminate the barriers confronting people with disabilities. Everyone can contribute to change. You can help remove barriers by:

Chapter 6 : Myths, Stereotypes, and Silly Nonsense – The Writing Cooperative

Myths and stereotypes permeate our modern society, leading to misunderstandings and misinformation day in and day out. Some of the most well known are centered around the arts which include anything from the tortured artist to the eccentric and isolated writer.

They lead completely different lives than people who do not have disabilities. They are more content with other people who also have disabilities. They are deserving of pity. These are some of the more common beliefs society has had towards people with disabilities. You may have been able to think of some others! In this context, even the use of this word suggests separation from the norm. You read about how to avoid such inappropriate language in the Person First Language links. There are many myths about people with disabilities. Read through the following scenarios and find out the truth. Persons with disabilities are inspirational, courageous, and brave for being able to overcome their disability. Persons with disabilities are simply carrying on normal activities of living when they drive to work, go grocery shopping, pay their bills, or compete in athletic events. Persons with disabilities need to be protected from failing. Persons with disabilities have a right to participate in the full range of human experiences including success and failure. Employers should have the same expectations of, and work requirements for, all employees. The lives of people with disabilities are completely different than those without disabilities. People with disabilities go to school, go to work, are involved in intimate relationships, have families, shop, pay taxes, vote, and have similar dreams and desires that other people do. People who are blind have a sixth sense. People with blindness often do tend to develop their remaining senses more highly than others, but they do not have a sixth sense. People with disabilities have different goals than people without disabilities. People with disabilities come from a wide range of social, cultural, and economic backgrounds, just like anybody else. Therefore, their goals are as varied and different as yours and mine are. People with disabilities have problems getting around. People with disabilities know what accommodations they need to get around and make use of them successfully.

Chapter 7 : Stereotypes/Myths of Chinese People - BUSTED - Internships in China

A stereotype usually refers to an overgeneralization from a particular. Suppose person A has trait B. Stereotyping would occur if upon learning of A's trait someone said, 'All [group identifier] are like that'. The group could be any group that A happens to belong to. The response could be: All.

Native American name controversy The first difficulty in addressing stereotypes is the terminology to use when referring to Indigenous peoples, which is an ongoing controversy. The truly stereotype-free names would be those of individual nations. The communities to which Indigenous peoples belong also have various names, typically "nation" or "tribe" in the United States, but "comunidad" Spanish for "community" in South America. This type of awareness is obvious when European Americans refer to Europeans with an understanding that there are some similarities, but many differences between the peoples of an entire continent. Carter Meland Anishinaabe heritage and David E. Myths and stereotypes persist because they fit into these narratives, which Americans use to understand their own history. Historical misconceptions[edit] There are numerous distortions of history, many of which continue as stereotypes. There is the myth that Indians are a dying race, i. Many of the indigenous peoples died from diseases to which they had no immunity There were a number of advanced civilizations in the Americas, [10] but they did lack two important resources: This view is based upon failure to understand the nature of the relationship between Native tribes and the Federal government of the United States. Tribes signed treaties that grant certain rights in exchange for the cession of land, therefore, many of these "privileges" are considered treaty obligations. So education and health care have been "bought and paid for" by Native ancestors. In the director of the Dutch settlement, Peter Minuit , traded sixty guilders worth of goods with the Lenni Lenape , which they would have accepted as a gifts in exchange for allowing the settlers to occupy the land. Native Americans had no conception of private ownership of natural resources. Pocahontas would have been eleven or twelve at the time, so this popular tale of the "Indian Princess" and the Englishman has no basis in known facts. Westerns and documentaries have tended to portray Natives in stereotypical terms: These images have become known across North America. Stereotyped issues include simplistic characterizations, romanticizing of Native culture and stereotyping by omissionâ€”showing American Indians in a historical rather than modern context. A controversy over the Fighting Sioux nickname and logo was resolved in There have been ongoing issues with the continuation of professional team names and mascots especially in the Washington Redskins name controversy. After a petition, the Trademark and Trial Appeal Board ordered the cancellation of six federal trademark registrations in The Redskins are appealing this ruling. Such misconceptions lead to murder, rape and violence against Native American women and girls by non-Native men. However, there remains more than a thousand locations in the U. As with most groups, the incidence of substance abuse is related to issues of poverty and mental distress, both of which may be, in part, the result of racial stereotyping and discrimination. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. January Learn how and when to remove this template message Inuit , often referred to as Eskimos which many see as derogatory , are usually depicted dressed in parkas , paddling kayaks, which the Inuit people invented, carving out trinkets, living in igloos , going fishing with a harpoon , hunting whales , traveling by sleigh and huskies , eating cod-liver oil and the men are called Nanook in reference to the documentary Nanook of the North. Eskimo children may have a seal for a best friend. Eskimos are sometimes shown rubbing noses together in greeting ritual, referred to as Eskimo kissing or preferably "Inuit kissing" in Western culture, and only loosely based on an authentic Inuit practice known as kunik. Victims suffer the emotional distress; anger, frustration, insecurity, and feelings of hopelessness. Most of all, Indian children exposed at an early age to these mainstream images internalize the stereotypes paired with the images, resulting in lower self-esteem, contributing to all of the other problems faced by Native Americans. Stereotypes become discrimination when the assumptions of being more prone to violence and alcoholism limit job opportunities. This leads directly to Indians being viewed less stable economically, making it more difficult for those that have succeeded to fully enjoy the benefits in the same way that

non-Indians do, such as obtaining credit. For those that maintain them, stereotypes prevent a more accurate view of Indians and the history of the United States. Two studies examined the effect of exposure to an American Indian sports mascot on the tendency to endorse stereotypes of a different minority group. A study was first done at the University of Illinois, and then replicated at The College of New Jersey with the same results. In both studies the students exposed to the sports mascot were more likely to express stereotypical views of Asian-Americans. Although Chief Illiniwek was described only in terms of positive characteristics as a respectful symbol, not a mascot, the stereotyping of Asian-Americans included negative characteristics, such as being "socially inept". This was indicative of a spreading effect; exposure to any stereotypes increased the likelihood of stereotypical thinking. Native Americans responded that it was an example of the continuing insensitivity and stereotyping of Indians in America. Portrayal of Native Americans in film Modern perpetuation of stereotypes[edit] The mainstream media makes a lot of money making movies that play along with stereotypes; while accurate portrayals may be critically acclaimed they are not often made or widely distributed. Spirit Bay , The Beachcombers , North of 60 and The Rez used Native actors to portray their own people, living real lives and earning believable livelihoods in identifiable parts of the country. Imagining Indians is a documentary film produced and directed by Native American filmmaker, Victor Masayesva, Jr. The documentary attempts to reveal the misrepresentation of Indigenous Native American culture and tradition in Classical Hollywood films by interviews with different Indigenous Native American actors and extras from various tribes throughout the United States. Reel Injun is illustrated with excerpts from classic and contemporary portrayals of Native people in Hollywood movies and interviews with filmmakers, actors and film historians, while director Diamond travels across the United States to visit iconic locations in motion picture as well as American Indian history.

Chapter 8 : 10 Stereotypes About Aging (That Just Aren't True) | HowStuffWorks

Debunking Common Myths and Stereotypes About Africa The world continues to expand and develop in various magnificent ways. Computers now function like human brains, a cancer-detecting pill exists, and it's now possible to instantly communicate with people from different parts of the world due to video conferencing.

Addiction only occurs when someone uses daily or goes through withdrawals. Not all addicts use drugs and alcohol or suffer from withdrawals when they stop using. Although it may feel like you have a stranger living in the house, many still function on a daily basis and go to school or work. Addiction includes what we call process addictions: They all change the neuro-pathways in the brain. Overcoming addiction is a simply a matter of willpower. You can stop using drugs if you really want to. Prolonged exposure to drugs and other addictive behaviors alter the neuro-physiological pathways in the brain in ways that can be seen on brain scans and result in powerful cravings and a compulsion to use. They bypass the part of the brain the frontal cortex where morality, judgement and the concept of right and wrong exists. It is these very brain changes that make it extremely difficult to quit by sheer force of will. Most experts agree that addiction is a brain disease and it is progressive. The brain can recover if the addictive behavior stops. Depending on how sever the use is, this recovery can begin happening within months and can take between years to complete. We believe that it is truly protective and based only on love. Families and their addicted loved ones are out of touch with one another and cannot be reconnected. Recovery of the addicted individual and healing of the family depends on becoming reconnected. People who are pressured into treatment by their family, employer, or the legal system are just as likely to benefit as those who choose to enter treatment on their own. As they sober up and their thinking clears, many formerly resistant addicts decide they want to change. Secrets are really secret. All families keep secrets. In families struggling with addiction, there are many apparent secrets but family secrets are never really secret because of the close connections among family members. They are only secret from certain people at certain times. The secrecy is always based on protecting oneself or other from pain and loss. Once secrets can be openly shared, families can develop much closer honest bonding. Addiction always starts when a family goes through major, unpredictable or massive loss. The family unconsciously adapts to this loss in an attempt to cope. One member of the family, typically a child or grandchild regardless of age carries the majority of the grief and becomes addicted to lessen the pain, loss and grief. It also keeps the family close as they concentrate on the problems. This closeness prevents further loss. If the grieving is not resolved in that first generation, one or more people in the next generation will become addicted. The more generations it takes for the grieving to be done, the more people will become addicted. In our research, we found that in all families by the 3rd or 5th generation someone in the family leads the family into healing and recovery. As this happens, they realize that the secrets were all based on protecting one another from further loss and that they no longer have to be secret. Children always know when something is wrong, they just may not know what the specific cause of the problem is. Fortunately, there are programs designed specifically for children between where they learn how to differentiate between the disease and their parent. Recovery from drug addiction is a long process that often involves setbacks. Contact us for information at no obligation. Together we can design a plan to help those you love find recovery, so your family can find hope, begin to heal, reconnect and communicate in a healthy way.

Chapter 9 : Easterseals | Myths and Facts About People with Disabilities

*Revised February DHS-Office of Licensing and Regulatory Oversight 5 MYTHS AND STEREOTYPES OF AGING
Answer True or False for each statement below: 1. In general, elderly people are alike.*

Sign in or sign up and post using a HubPages Network account. Comments are not for promoting your articles or other sites. My son created his own homeless mission last year. We are on a first name basis on most of the ones in our area. What he and a lot of people do not know is that I was homeless myself. The big difference between my story and a lot of the people on the street I was given a 2nd chance Mia 17 months ago This was very helpful and educational. I did not realize how many misconceptions and myths about homeless people. May This was very helpful when researching for my essay on a misunderstood community! If anything, being black would probably be at least somewhat less safe, considering the types of drunk young men who tend harass homeless people for entertainment. Geri McClymont 2 years ago A very educational article about all the misconceptions we have about homeless people, and I learned so much from reading it. I am so glad to hear that this article was going to be included in a school textbook, as education about this topic should begin at a young age. It is so easy to judge others, but the reality is that we often do not know or bother to find out where other people are coming from and what the circumstances are that led them to the point of being homeless. As you mention, the income requirements many complexes require make it impossible for even people who work full-time to get housing. Thank you for shedding light on this important topic to help us better understand the various circumstances that cause people to become homeless. Ryan at Catalyst 3 years ago Kylyssa, I would really like to run this article in The Catalyst street paper. Our first issue will be coming out this month and I think your writing is one of the voices that we are looking for. Please reach out to me at ryan. It also has links in an assortment of educational materials used by high school students as well. I think early exposure is the key to retaining empathy for our neighbors so I was utterly delighted by its inclusion in a textbook for young people. I think every voice helps to change minds and open hearts. In the UK the poor have been demonised to such an extent we have an almost Pavlovian response to certain words. Say the word Benefits and the Pavlovian response is likely to be scroungers - frauds - lazy scum etc. All totally negative terms and attributed erroneously in the vast majority of cases. I applaud your attempt to expose these myths and misconceptions though I think that those who need to read something like this are not the ones most like to: Voting up on my way off the page and hitting the relevant buttons: D Jo Fraser 4 years ago In , I found myself homeless, this was approx 2 years after my husband died suddenly. No life insurance, and a house that was falling apart I managed to hold onto the house until our daughter graduated from high school, but once that was done, it was time to let go. My daughter moved in with friends, and I was in a homeless shelter. What an eye opening experience. Yes, I was working, about 30 hours a week at the time. After 8 weeks in the shelter, I managed to get myself a cheap apartment. That lasted only 8 weeks because someone started a fire, and the fire marshal deemed the house unihabitable. Finally 8 months later, got a full time job and a decent apartment. That lasted 3 years until I had a motorcycle accident, and moved out of state to be closer to my daughter. Many people hide their status by avoiding such charities. People who wait outside soup kitchens all day tend to be those less socially able, or most physically or mentally ill. They tend to make other homeless people nervous, too, and may cause them to avoid services. Loud and mentally ill people can be intimidating. I always just continued on my way. Walk purposefully and carry pepper spray. Any men who make you feel frightened are best to avoid if possible. Be sure not to make the mistake of letting your guard down because no one shabby or shouting is nearby. I learned the hard way that some well-dressed men hanging out near charities for the poor may be pimps or rapists. On the other hand I now experience street harassment on an almost daily basis and it is almost always patrons of the soup kitchen. I will say that not all of the people cat-calling and saying inappropriate things are homeless, but they are patrons of the soup kitchen. The reason I know this is bc it always seems to be men hanging in front of the soup kitchen, or with their cars parked right outside. I absolutely hate being messed with on the street because of my gender so I am regularly frustrated with how to deal with these men who seem to have no respect for women. How is a girl to handle this issue? I

moved here bc I thought I had a lot of empathy, but honestly I am starting to really resent a lot of the patrons of this particular soup kitchen after dealing with them on a daily basis. If that stub shows late fees on it all the better. I know that sounds weird but they like proof of where you live. They almost always have a list of charities and agencies that help people, sometimes even in a handout or on a little card they give with food. You want contact information to the ones that help teens who are victims of parental neglect; someone will likely even help you figure out which ones on their list would apply to you. If you are referring to yourself or a friend, I wish you the best of luck and I hope you find food and security for whoever it is that needs it. Thank you for sharing. Here there are more homeless now than before because they do not or have forgotten where they lived before, like some sort of dementia. Kathryn Grace 4 years ago from San Francisco I live in San Francisco, where the homeless population is in the tens of thousands. I see the gamut, from the young couple in clean clothes and with good haircuts sleeping in a shop doorway with clean blankets and an alarm clock, to the whacked-out crazy guy with a Methuselah beard, who walks around with only an extremely street-blackened hand out, begging for money for a cup of coffee. Over the years, I have gotten to know a few of the homeless people in my area and talked with several of them. Some abuse drugs and alcohol. Some admit to suffering from schizophrenia and are unable to hold a job because of their illness. Some have war injuries and other health challenges that prevent their getting or holding jobs, so they panhandle. Sometimes I will see an apparently newly unemployed guy walking around in a soiled suit, his haircut still showing the signs of the salon, digging in trashcans for food. Far too many teenagers and women. One day, a woman and a small child were digging through the trashcans in our neighborhood. I gave her all the money I had and tried to offer her assistance to a shelter, but she spoke no English and seemed to be afraid that someone out of sight my see her talking to me. I went to flag down a passing patrol car and ask them to help her, but when I turned back, she and her daughter had disappeared. I walked up and down the block, but could not find them. That woman and her child haunt me. I once saw a woman in an expensive suit and coat, her well-cut and hand-colored hair and manicured nails a sure giveaway of her economic status until perhaps that very day. She had a sleeping bag and a clean little overnight bag, like you carry on the airplane. She was asleep on the sidewalk, one of five or ten still asleep that cold early morning, where subway heat pours out of vents. Several have told me the streets are safer than the shelters, where violence and drugs abound. Just that week, she had witnessed a guy stabbing another man outside her room. He then tried to knock down doors, including hers. Until we as a nation step up and find ways to provide security, food, comfort and shelter to the poorest among us, we have no business calling ourselves the greatest nation on Earth. I look forward to the day, and hope yet to see it in my lifetime, when every human being is treated with respect and dignity and valued for his or her contributions to society, whatever those contributions may be. Linda Hahn 4 years ago from California I salute you for insisting on presenting the homeless issue to the public. There but for the grace of god anonymous 5 years ago I do not understand why people are homeless but have a great deal of pain from what I do understand by knowing my brother is homeless, hungry and cold, hurting both physical and emotionally. The missing piece of the puzzle- where is it? So many reasons not one answer. People are hurt and lonely and homeless is the end result. Lorelei Cohen 5 years ago from Canada Just stopping by to wish you the very best that springtime has to offer. In the winter we do not notice the homeless so much although there is considerably more attention to plite in the winter months. Spring is now here and it is during the warmer months that we will notice more homeless in the local parks and sleeping on our streets. Severely mentally ill people exist in all walks of life so it is unsurprising you have met a few. I got asked why I chose to be homeless so many times I have lost track. He said in apartments he had to live by the landlords rules. He could not paint his unit or make changes to suit himself. I could not believe this when he told me and said so. I had to conclude some people are homeless because; they want to be. Lorelei Cohen 6 years ago from Canada I removed my story "My friend Pete" a while ago but I think that you had visited my page when it is was live. Pete was hit by a train and because of disability he lost everything and became homeless. I learned that he died in August at the age of Homelessness is such a very sad fact of our society. I really think that this website is very helpful and that this website is also more special as you were once homeless as well. I have been blessed to have a few people contact me to thank me for showing them they were mistaken in their attitudes about people less

fortunate than themselves.