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### **Youth subcultures and personal identification**

Culture is a certain whole system with its inner certainty of value-hierarchical relationships. There is a valuable dominant, or core of culture, and next to it a number of subcultural formations in any culture. The question arises what the subculture is. It was assumed that subculture is a subsystem of the whole system of culture. But, there is no any well-established system of views on the appearance of subcultures nowadays. Every science interprets this concept and describes it from the point of their subject and methodology. Subculture usually a special case of culture in general. It is always different with its some localness and reticence to a certain extent, in varying degrees, is loyal to the value system of the dominant culture, although there are exceptions. Youth subculture is a special case of manifestations of subculture in general. Epithet of "youth" immediately defines a cultural niche that is occupied by people united on the principle of age. In this case, the age is an important demographic characteristics. The special psychology of age in culture is undeniably important, as it seriously influences the mentality and spirituality. Youth subculture is born and exists in connection with the specific needs of young people to socialize and at the same time to assert themselves actively. Youth often characterized categorical judgments, perfectionism, rejection councils, their subordination existing burdens models of social development, they are characterized by dynamism, openness to the world, heightened emotionality, romantic aspirations, etc.

And now I would like to tell you about *some subcultures existing among teens in European countries and Ukraine as well.*

High school years are full of uncertainly, change, and doubt. To make it worse, every high school student must choose which clique they belong to. Cliques are informal groups of high school students. They consist of a closed group of students

that share a binding element, such as fashion, sports, or academics. Some of the most common cliques that seem to spring up in every high school are the jocks, the preps, the nerds, the bullies, the cheerleaders, the theatre group, the EMOS, the punk rockers, the Goths, and the musicians. Although everyone in high school is seeking individuality, they do this by joining a group that will tell them how to act.

**The jocks** are the sportsmen. You can usually find them in the gym pumping weights and on the football field practicing plays. Their physical ability is always better than their academic ability. When they are not talking about who won yesterday's football game or fighting match, they are carefully considering which new vitamin supplements to take.

**The preps** are the clean-cut all around good people that everyone seems to like. They dress nice and expensive because the most important thing in life is to present a good image. To ruin a prep's day, tell him that you don't like him or his clothes are from last season and they don't match.

**The cheerleaders**, or, "blonds", are pretty, popular and almost always stupid. They could care less about anything except the way that they look in their cheerleading miniskirt. They love to go on diets, listen to bubblegum pop, and paint their nails.

**The nerds** are good at academics and always get good grades. Traditionally, they are ugly because they are ignorant when it comes to fashion. They love to study and are fearless when it comes to tests.

**The theater people** love the arts. Although they can be a very tight-knit clique, they have been known to fight over who will get the leading role in the upcoming of musical school. Of course, all of them dream about performing on Broadway and think Gershwin is a pop-star.

You can identify **the EMOS** by their tight jeans, piercings, dyed black hair, and melancholic personality. Many believe that the title, "EMO", comes from the

English word “emotional”. They are soft-spoken, interesting to talk with, and can explode at any moment in a fit of rage and frustration.

**The Goths** are an interesting group. They love to shock. The weirder they look, the better. Their colors of choice are black and sometimes white. They often paint their faces and darken their eyes with black eyeliner to give the impression that they are the walking dead.

**The punks** are a fun group who love, of course, sarcastic punk music. They often come to school looking like they just got out of bed five minutes ago, which is often true. They skateboard in the summers and snowboard in the winters. Punks hate wearing traditional conservative clothes that don't draw attention.

The picture for every image and there is a person in the centre who thinks what to choose.

Style is an important way that youth engage in symbolic creativity. That is, they use specialized language, the body, and drama to "express something about their actual or potential cultural significance". Language is used to communicate, but it also helps subcultural members to express solidarity or community with fellow members, since other members can decipher the language whereas outsiders cannot. The body is used as a resource to communicate, too. Think of how humans use the body to communicate, through style, our particular role and ideologies. Finally, we use drama - rituals and performances including dance, singing, joke-making, and story-telling - as a cultural practice and resource for communication. Youth subcultures use all three of these aspects of language, the body, and drama to produce new meanings about their world. In so doing, youth produce individual identities, collective identities, and a sense of agency. Youth subcultures, in an important sense, serve an important function in the creation of social and personal meaning for many young people.

Subcultures help young people find meaning in a confusing world in which youth, and particularly working class and minority youth, are regulated by an array

of institutions and reside in a liminal or questionable status position relative to the children they used to be and the adults they will become. As Brake summarizes, youth subcultures provide particular functions for the young:

- They offer a solution, albeit often at a 'magical' or illusionary level, to certain structural problems created by the internal contradictions of a socio-economic structure, which are collectively experienced. The problems are often class problems experienced generationally.
- They offer a culture, from which can be selected certain cultural elements such as style, values, ideologies and life style. These can be used to develop an achieved identity outside the ascribed identity offered by work, home or school.
- As such, an alternative form of social reality is experienced, rooted in class culture (often), but mediated by neighborhood, or else a symbolic community transmitted through the mass media.
- Subcultures offer, through their expressive elements, a meaningful way of life during leisure, which has been removed from the instrumental world of work.
- Subcultures offer to the individual solutions to certain existential dilemmas. This involves style to construct an identity outside work or school.