

Topic 1 – Discuss

Bedömning: C

Innocent Fun or Dangerous Possibilities?

“I can resist anything but temptation”, Oscar Wilde once said. I agree with him because it is very hard to resist sometimes. Your friend is asking you to smoke or to bet more money when you’re playing poker. Maybe you want to buy that expensive mascara because your rich friend has one. You can get tempted in many ways.

Youngsters in today’s society and thousands of years back in the history have always wanted to be like the grown-ups. And what do the grown-ups do? They’re drinking, smoking, gambling, they’ve got money and they are free to decide over their lives. That’s why a lot of teenagers test these things. But often you’re too young to have a good control of it. I also think youngsters today are more well-informed about the risks about these temptations than they were fifty years ago for example.

Most of us did try smoking or drinking before we were 18. Often it was our friends who made us do it, so called peer pressure. There’s a simple explanation to “follow the crowd”, you don’t want to be alone and in that age many teenagers don’t have the self-confidence to say no. Another reason to why you do things you’re not allowed to do is the good and nice feeling you get by doing something that is new for you.

Following the crowd does not have to be bad. It can be a way for shy people to meet new friends. Or as I learned in my theory lessons on my driving school: If you’re driving with your friends and the speed is too high then your friends can make you slow down.

People who test drugs have often first been in contact with alcoholics and cigarettes. Most of them also only try it once. Those who continue with drugtaking often have problems in some way. It can be in your family, in school or hard stress. But we all know that drugs are bad.

You can never have experience from something you have not done. It’s always good to try new things but only you yourself know the limit.

Texten har en väl uppbyggd struktur, där eleven effektivt inleder med Oscar Wildes citat från elevmaterialet. Detta används sedan som utgångspunkt för ett resonemang kring temat frestelser. Citatet belyses på ett lättsamt sätt med några situationer ur ungdomars vardag (*Maybe you want to buy that expensive mascara because your rich friend has one*). Eleven utvecklar därpå sitt innehåll med olika aspekter. Först görs en kort historisk tillbakablick (*and thousands years back in the history*), varpå eleven jämför nutidens unga generation med ungdomar för femtio år sedan (*youngsters today are more well-informed*). Resonemanget leder sedan över på aspekten gruppträck visavi ungdomars dåliga självkänsla (*many teenagers don't have the self-confidence to say no*) samt nyfikenhetens roll i sammanhanget (*the good and nice feeling you get by doing something that is new for you*). Eleven belyser inte bara negativa sidor utan framhåller även det positiva (*Following the crowd does not have to be bad. It can be a way for...*) och tar upp konkreta exempel som stöd. Diskussionen leder fram till en slutsats som också utvecklas något. Eleven avrundar slutligen framställningen genom att framhålla vikten av självkänedom när man tänjer sina gränser (*but only you yourself know the limit*).

Språket har flyt och är relativt ledigt (*most of us did try smoking or drinking before we were 18; who made us do it; can make you slow down; those who*). Meningsbyggnaden, särskilt i början av meningarna, är varierad (*Your friend is asking you to; Maybe you want to buy; And what do the grown-ups do?; There's a simple explanation; Most of them also*). Eleven använder sig också genomgående av bindeord, som knyter samman satser och uttryck, vilket skapar sammanhang och bidrar till tydlighet (*That's why; these things; But often; I also think; Another reason; People who ... Most of them...; But we all know that*). Relevanta ord och uttryck från instruktionen (*resist; peer pressure; follow the crowd*) används strategiskt, och det finns exempel på varierat ordval (*gamble/bet*). Eleven visar vid några tillfällen osäkerhet beträffande kongruens, d.v.s. subjektets överensstämmelse med predikatet (*People who tests; Those who continues*), prepositionsval (*reason to; on my driving school*) och ordföljd (*Often was it our ...*), men även om detta stör flytet något, påverkas inte tydligheten. Stavningen är med något undantag (*to=too*) god, vilket bidrar till att göra texten tillgänglig för läsaren.

Helhetsbedömningen blir att eleven visar förmåga att med fungerande strategier formulera sig strukturerat kring ett resonande innehåll med viss anpassning till syfte, situation och mottagare. Eleven uttrycker sig därvid tydligt, varierat, relativt ledigt och med flyt, varför framställningen bedöms uppfylla kunskapskravet för betygssteget C.

Bedömning: C

You Look Good the Way You Are

You look good the way you are, sounds like an old kliche', but it is actually true in today's society we have a lot of pressure on us to look good, be healthy and have the "perfect life". If you watch TV for example you get tons of tips how to make your life and yourself perfect. You can eat the new allbran cereals for 14 days, try the new repairing shampoo with fruit extracts and oils which don't just give you a clean hair, it also makes you happy! Pantyliners, a new lipstick, haircolor, "Because you're worth it". Am I? Isn't there other more important things that will make me truly happy and secure with myself? I think so. It doesn't matter if you have a perfect C-cup. The most shiny haircolor or the best kissable lipstick, neither a wardrobe with the latest fashion in it. No, the most important thing is to have a good confidence, and to feel secure with who you are. If you don't have that, it doesn't matter if you throw away hundreds of dollars for a new pair of boobs. You won't get happy anyway. You have to deal with your inside, your feelings, not with the plastic surgeon. This is a big problem today. The fixation of good looks, skinny bodies, expensive clothes and designer handbags make people do anything just to get it. They starve themselves until they look like a walking skeleton, they bury themselves in debts just to get those boobs, the shoes or the jacket. This is a kind of peer pressure, a desire to look like the Hollywood stars. Why do people have anorexia? peer pressure! pressure to look like the models. They think they will be happy if they are a size four. But no, it just gets worse, the pressure increases with the sickness.

Nowadays the experts talk about that plastic surgeries can lead to a state of sickness. And by that they don't mean all the physical risks, no it can lead to mental sickness. You start to feel a need to operate you to the perfect body but the thing is, you will never get satisfied. Take a look at Michael Jackson for example.

What I'm saying is that beauty comes from the inside. If you are happy with who you are and accept how you look you will get inner peace and feel happy. And then will other people think just the same. I'm going to end this with two of my favourite texts.

"You have to love your self, before you can be loved by others".

"Loving your self is the beginning to a lifelong relationship"

Framställningen har ett idérikt innehåll med en god inre struktur, även om styckeindelningen hade kunnat vara tydligare. Texten är anpassad till genren genom att den är klart argumenterande. Tesen, d.v.s. ett tydligt ställningstagande (*You look good the way you are, sounds like an old kliche', but it is actually true*) inleder texten, varpå eleven för ett effektivt,

och lätt ironiskt resonemang om reklamens utseendefixering och dess psykologiska faktorer. Argumentationen i resonemanget underbyggs av konkreta och slagkraftiga exempel (*You can...try the new repairing shampo with fruitextracts and oils ..., it also makes you happy!*), följda av ett känt citat från reklamens värld (*"Because you're worth it"*). Retoriskt ifrågasätter eleven detta (*Am I? Isn't there other more important things that...? I think so*), och det efterföljande resonemanget leder över till slutsatsen att den enda vägen till lycka är ett gott självförtroende. Denna åsikt belyses sedan med ett antal konkreta och ofta drastiska beskrivningar av utseendefixeringens och skönhetsbranschens baksidor (*The starv themselves until they look like a walking skelleton, they bury themselves in debts just to get those...*), där eleven lyfter fram såväl grupptruckets roll som förebilderna i film- och underhållningsbranschen. Framställningen ges en tydlig avrundning genom slutorden om vikten av ett gott självförtroende. De två citaten som också får illustrera detta anges dock utan källa.

Språket innehåller en hel del smidiga fraser (*it doesn't matter if you throw away hundreds of dollars; You won't get happy anyway; make people do anything just to get it; What I am saying is*) som ger framställningen flyt. Eleven uttrycker sig ofta effektivt med ett antal målande uttryck, där särskilt de många adjektiven skapar variation i texten (*the most shiny haircolor, the best kissable lipstick; wardrobe with the latest fashion in it; skinny bodies; expensive clothes, designer handbags*). Till struktur och sammanhang i framställningen bidrar förekomsten av bindeord, som knyter samman uttryck och satser (*If you don't have that; This is a kind of; And by that they don't mean; Take a look at Michael Jackson for example; think just the same*). Beträffande den formella kompetensen uppvisar elever några olika språkliga brister, t.ex. vid subjektets överensstämmelse med verbet, d.v.s. kongruens (*Isn't there more...things; it just get worse; the pressure increase*) och ordföljd (*and then will other people think*). Några andra felaktiga och oidiomatiska konstruktioner förekommer också (*wich just don't gives you a clean hair; the experts talk about that plasticsurgeries can lead to; to operate you*), liksom stavfel (*acually; sociaty; wich; beuty*). Dessa brister är dock inte av det slaget att de nämnvärt påverkar flytet i framställningen.

Sammanfattningsvis blir bedömningen att eleven med fungerande strategier kan formulera sig strukturerat kring ett idérikt innehåll med viss anpassning till syfte, situation och mottagare. Eleven uttrycker sig därvid tydligt, varierat, relativt ledigt samt med flyt, och framställningen bedöms uppfylla kunskapskravet för betygssteget C.

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Innocent fun or Dangerous Possibilities

Today a lot of young people grow up with parents and friends, that are taking drugs, drinking or other things. Because of that many think that it is simple to understand why other follow the crowd. It seem's to be easy, but why are they then following the crowd?

As I mentioned, it starts with the parents. If the parents don't care at all, then the child thinks he/she can do whatever he/she want's to, without seeing the risks.

Of course it isn't allways the parents fount. It also depends on which friends you choose. You can choose "bad" or "good" friends. Noone is a "bad" person, but some people aren't doing the right decisions at all, you can say that everyone is human.

Many people who are taking drugs, often have had an hard childhood. A lot of young people grow up with parents that are going to devorse, are in a trouble with the police, one of them is dead or no parents at all. What I mean with that is that a family tragedy can switch someone's life from good to bad anytime. This can happen to everyone.

A child isn't capable to judge or take the right decisions all the time. Then I don't only mean drugs, it can be everything from drinking, smoking, gambling to ending up school.

A new trend that has come in the past few years is gambling. People trow out millions on horses, poker, sportresults and so on. The most popular is poker and casino-games. This have been very popular much because of media. TV sends pokertournaments every day and they of course know that there is many people watching it. It can seem to be very easy and simple. I know some people that are playing poker many hours a day on Internet with real money. I also know some that are also living by playing poker, it's like a job. The only differences is that the money you get can be all from millions plus or you can go back a lot of money. I don't know any one that has lost that much by playing poker, but it can go really fast.

As a summary I can say that following the crowd isn't allways the right desicion. Even if you try to do some of the things that I have mentioned it isn't wrong, cause you have experience a lot of things before you can understand why it's dangerous.