

Parents Article Summary and Reflection

I totally agree with this article — parents can be a drag sometimes, but their reasonings are often sound. They do not want to hurt us, but help us; they probably don't consider these habits of theirs annoying like a teenager might. The article began with overprotectiveness, which is totally acceptable; then snooping, embarrassing, nagging, talking about, and comparing you. Most of these actions will not result in any real harm to the child but just be a way the parent expresses their feelings.

I think my parents give me plenty of freedom and do not cause too much trouble. They are not too overprotective, because they want me to grow independent for myself. As I grow older, they are allowing me more and more freedoms; and, because I am not too naughty of a child, they do not refuse me too many options except when it's unreasonable (for various reasons, such as time, money, or intent). They tell my sisters and me to go out and experience the world for ourselves, to learn and expand our minds. This is a great aspect of my parents.

Snooping is also not a big deal in our house. My younger sister and I don't have phones, so we don't have text messages, instant alerts, or phone calls to bother us at home or in class — or for our parents to read. Our major form of communication is e-mailing, usually a slower, more formal system that doesn't need to be snooped on. My Facebook page is also very clean, so there isn't too much harm in that. I think my parents trust me, and I trust them not to look into our every actions. Although this doesn't mean they do not monitor us as a whole: when my siblings or I take too long to do a homework assignment or fail an assignment, they usually get onto us pretty quickly and ask why. We don't have to "explain why [I] deserve some privacy [or] brag about what a good kid [I] am," as Leary said in her book *A Teen Girl's Survival Guide*.

Most annoying of all is the embarrassment: when our parents tell a supposedly funny story of myself when I was a foolish and careless little child to strangers, or even our relatives, it makes me cringe. It happened so long ago, and is irrelevant now — why bring it up? Unfortunately, if it's humorous to them, they will not hold back. Similarly, if they try to explain a concept to us in public or talk about something we're uncomfortable about, such as our grades

or minute details of our life, then I have to explain to them that I would rather they didn't talk about it. This ties in with "comparing you with others" and "spilling about your personal life" sections that the article mentions: I do not like when others talk about me in front of myself, either negatively or positively, as I would prefer the "ignorant bliss" of not knowing how others perceive me.

One final idea that the author didn't discuss that I would like to mention is lying on the parent's part. White lies to give us a slight false sense of security and relief are okay; however, when our parents give us false information, turn back on their word (even if they "promise"), or respond with a false answer when distracted (i.e., on a phone call), this can be very aggravating. Some of it may be mistakes, or maybe to discipline us; but sometimes it also seems downright unfair. When it seems like it was done on purpose, it feels like they are people in power bullying us. As I've grown up, I realized that many times it just seemed like they were lying or they were being tricky to motivate us to do something.