

Peer Pressure; what comes to mind when you hear the words “Peer Pressure”? I can tell you what comes to my mind. I think of alcohol, drugs, teenagers, and pride. These thoughts can all connect to each other in a way. Peer pressure is when someone is pressured into doing something that they don’t want to do, even though they know it could be dangerous. Many teenagers are peer pressured into doing things associated with drinking, sometimes doing drugs, damaging property, and much more. Peer pressure can bring danger to not only the person being pressured to do something, but also the people around them. When a teen makes a harmful decision, it can set off a ripple effect. Peer pressure can also have positive effects on the youth of today. Peer pressure is good when it is reflected in a positive way.

Teenagers choices are influenced are influenced by their peers and the people around them. Researchers say that when teens associate in the “popular crowd” they are at a higher risk factor for mild to moderate deviant behaviors and actions. When teens are conflicted with negative peer pressure, the right thing to do is say no.

Learning to say “no” can be hard at times. When a person is pressuring another person into doing something they don’t want to do, they are messing with the pressured person’s pride and self-confidence. When this is inflicted upon a person, they must say “no”. Saying “no” to what is wrong, benefits everyone around that person. If one says “yes” and agrees to do whatever is being asked of them, they not only risk their well-being, they risk the well-being of the people around them and in their community. Safety is very important, and everyone deserves a place where they can be safe. Making your community a safer environment helps everyone living in and around the community.

One example I have faced with peer pressure was when I was with a few of the neighborhood kids. One of the older boys dared another one of his friends to go into a school and damage some property. The boys thought it would be fun. They were horsing around and daring the craziest dares of all. This dare however was different. When the boy said "No", that he wouldn't damage the school's property, all the other boys kept calling him a "wuss" and kept telling him that he was just scared of getting caught. The boys kept harassing him until he finally gave up and went home. I would have done the same if I were that boy. The boy was very brave to say "no" in this situation. It was important for the boy to say "no" because if he hadn't, there would have been serious consequences and he would have caused a lot of trouble for himself.

Making good decisions is always important because one small choice can affect a larger outcome that result in many different ways. Making the right choices is never easy, but doing the right thing can be easy. When a person does the right thing it benefits them and everyone around them. When a bad decision is made sometimes a person may feel regret or sorrow. Making the best choices is what helps us and our community. Healthy mottos can also play a big role on a person. If one keeps a good motto and is the best they can be they are on to something good.