

A Thoughtful Student's Update on Frye's Thoughts on Thinking

Northrop Frye's article *Don't You Think It's Time to Start Thinking?*, lists countless issues that are prevalent in many schools, such as mine. To begin with, Frye's article highlights the problem of being extraordinary among today's youth and the necessity of being one with the crowd. He states, "Articulate speech marks you as an individual, and in some settings this can be rather dangerous [...] So if you say as little as possible and use only stereotyped, ready-made phrases you can hide yourself in the mass" (Frye, 10). Despite the importance of having an accurate vocabulary, several individuals have been reduced to the simple word bank of "Yo", "Bro", and "That's sick". Not only does this elicit bland conversations with no direction, but it also portrays this generation as simple-minded beings, which further isolates our age group from others because of our "uniqueness". Furthermore, high school students are somewhat incapable of thinking for themselves due to the school system or the lack of exposure to high level thinking. The author states, "[...] he firmly believes that he can think, that he has ideas, and that he is just given the opportunity to express them [...] Of course, when you look at what he's written you find it doesn't make any sense." (Frye, 3). Often school presentations contain slides that have little to no connection to what the presenter is talking about, and sometimes this leaves the audience less informed about the topic than when they first entered class. The level of incoherence only grows if students are not taught to truly think critically, yet they are fed books with equally low quality every year until, consequently, they graduate without any improvement in their thinking skills.