Abstract

Society has certainly changed over the last few decades. However, certain changes have made it difficult for young people to live, mature, and even find purpose in their lives. Significant research has been done which proves the negative impacts that technology and the digital age have had on the cognitive development and social rearing of young people. The current college-age generation displays signs of three dangerous habits: self-obsession, instant gratification, and a lack of purpose. I call these the modern plagues, and as a member of the college-age generation, my goal is to shine the spotlight on some of the many ways which society is threatening the humanity of its future leaders and generations. My thesis argues that these three plagues are extremely prevalent among students in college and that they are only being exacerbated by the college experience. Students are going to classes which break down their beliefs and convictions, but nothing is given to them to rebuild their life and purpose. There are many challenges which college students face, yet the foundation and source of nearly all the problems specific to their generation can be explained by analyzing the three plagues. College students are consumed by self-obsession, addicted to instant gratification, and plagued by a lack of purpose. However, understanding what these students are up against and how society facilitates these problems is the first step to creating an environment where students can grow rather than one that prolongs their childhood.