

ГБПОУ МО «Серпуховский колледж»

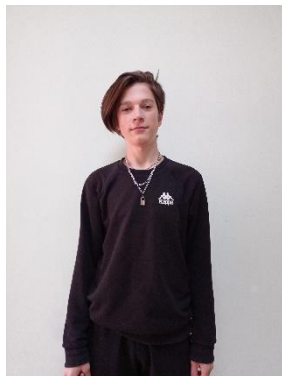
Командный конкурс эссе

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking
World. Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**«Страхи, табу, стремления и мечты российских и британских
подростков»**

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Serpukhov College

Group essay contest

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World. Time for Equal Opportunities”

Research work (essay)

«Fears, taboos, ambitions and dreams of Russian and British teenagers»

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План

1. Вступление. Взаимосвязь между амбициями, стремлениями, страхами и табу у современных подростков.
2. Психологические особенности подросткового возраста.
 - 2.1. Подростки исследуют жизнь.
 - 2.2. Амбиции, мечты, страхи в подростковом возрасте.
3. Российские подростки.
 - 3.1. Мечты и стремления российских подростков.
 - 3.2. Ценности в жизни подростков из исследований психологов.
 - 3.3. Что больше всего волнует российских подростков.
4. Британские подростки.
 - 4.1. Что волнует британских подростков.
 - 4.2. Британские подростки самостоятельные.
 - 4.3. Мечты и стремления британских подростков.
5. Заключение. Сходства и различия российских и британских подростков.

Theses

1. Introduction. Today's relationship between teenagers' ambitions, aspirations, fears and taboos.
2. Psychological peculiarities of teenagers.
 - 2.1. Teenagers explore life.
 - 2.2. Teenagers' ambitions, dreams, and fears.
3. Russian teenagers.
 - 3.1. Ambitions and dreams of Russian teenagers.
 - 3.2. Main values of teenagers according to the psychological research.
 - 3.3. What worries Russian teenagers most of all.
4. British teenagers.
 - 4.1. What worries British teenagers.
 - 4.2. British teenagers are independent.
 - 4.3. Ambitions and dreams of British teenagers
5. Conclusion. Similarities and differences between Russian and British teenagers.

In our essay we would like to speculate on Russian and British teenagers' aspirations, ambitions, fears, and taboos, in other words, what they dream about, what they strive for, what they are afraid of and what they prohibit to themselves. Such feelings as ambitions and fears, the same as teenagers' dreams of success are interconnected with each other and linked with the process of searching the place in the sun. If your ambitions are high enough and you set a goal of your life clearly, be it career, money, or wealth in general, you dream that everything you hope to achieve in the future will happen in the best way, and you plan your life thoroughly, step by step. You can be afraid that something might break your plans. You may have a dread that a poor score at the Unified State Examinations, for example, will prevent entering a prestigious educational institution and destroy the chain of gradual achievement of the goal. Not all teenagers are able to choose their targets in a professional career. The question of what educational institution a teenager can be enrolled into is difficult and the answer often depends not on the desire but on the abilities a person has. Often a young person's fear relates to a lack of recognition and dignity in a family, in a group of peers, and in a society, or with a failure and absence of support. Everyone wants to be loved, recognized, treated with respect. A problem can become a burden you cannot share with anyone, a teenager may scare that in case of having problems he becomes a ballast for his family and friends.

Teenagers are young people at the stage of adulting, from 11 to 15 years old, they are not children already, but still cannot be called adults yet. They usually have diverse interests. With proper mentoring and adequate perception of what is recommended they can seriously develop their abilities and aptitudes. The teenager's knowledge is being deepened, he/she starts to learn new academic disciplines, he/she takes a keen interest in a particular academic subject. There are some problems a teenager faces. They are the eternal problem of choosing a career and getting education, the problem of independence and

money, the problem of unemployment of young people, the generation gap. Young people have problems of emotional and personal character which may look silly and unimportant in the eyes of grown-ups but appear to be extremely significant to the young. These are the problems of friendship and loneliness, as well as of the first love. Every teenager is sensitive to his/her estimate by the environment, vulnerable and is full of mood swings. Strike of luck or appreciation by the valuable adults may lead to the teenager's overestimate, to overweening conceit, and arrogance. Such an overestimation of oneself does not lead to the personal development. The teenager will feel that he has already succeeded in everything and does not need to try any more. Even temporary accidental misfortune may cause frustration, develop a feeling of insecurity, shyness, timidity. If it happens often it can lead to the inferiority complex, a sharp feeling of isolation.

In the juvenile period boys and girls start to refine themselves. They start asking questions as follows: "Who am I?", "What should I do in this life?", "What's the point of all this?". Some answers come up quickly if you have a well-defined set of values. However, often the values are floating. So, at this age the thing supposed to be valuable someday becomes arguable. The teenage period becomes the start for planning an adult life. If the target is chosen, you work for it, you succeed, you build up self-esteem, and having made the right conclusions, you go further. If you fail and there is a lack of self-supportability, a negative self-feeling can appear, and a depression can prevent understanding of the reasons of the failure. It takes time to recollect yourself and to begin doing something just from the beginning.

For a Russian teenager, the dream plays a key role. This is a kind of plan of his life, which dictates how, why, and what for you need to live, to develop yourself. The dream for every teenager is an "evolutionary path" from childhood to adulthood. In adolescence, when personal development becomes predominant, the dream becomes of a particular importance as an image of the

desired future. A teenager dreams of what gives him a kind of joy, what satisfies his most cherished intentions and necessities. In dreams, a teenager builds the desired individual program of life, in which its main meaning is often determined. Often dreams are unrealistic when the methods of achieving the goal are undefined. Dreams help the teenager to "sort out" different variations of the upcoming, to prefer his own path of solving the problem. The teenagers dream of growing up, finding a boyfriend or a girlfriend, getting rich, becoming famous, having their own car, having their own apartment, and living separately, as soon as possible, graduating from school or college, about cool gadgets.

Russian teenagers strive to achieve a certain status among their peers, feel free among them without losing their individuality, make friends, and communicate with any person they like, to be the best, respected and competitive in the company of peers. A teenager tries to behave so that others notice he has become an adult, has learnt how to control his emotions. He becomes confident, and necessarily "cool", feels his own uniqueness, that is, starts to learn what is inaccessible to others, be it programming or Japanese, resolves any tricky situation without prejudice to his authority. He overcomes a problem jumping over it, he plans his life path in advance, makes his dreams of prestigious education, a career, and a well-paid job a reality.

Russian teenagers have mostly healthy set of values. They give priority to fruitful co-operation, strive to be good friends, espouse traditional values, treat other people with respect and tolerance, etc. Teenage years are the years of acquisitive mind, anxious strive for knowledge, intense vitality. Schoolchildren take active part in labour, public, artistic, sport and other kinds of activities. Any activity in this period is perceived as necessary not only for the society but for the teenager him-/herself. Later a teenager takes part in different kinds of activities more selectively, according to his or her interests. Their desire is to improve in this direction, to achieve high results. They are willing to take risks to satisfy their ambitions.

Psychologists conducting tests of teenage groups with the purpose to specify the rating of desirable values have been surprised that the top was held by such values as safety and security, comfort, true friends, love, happy family life, superseded by the values of personal development and creativity. The results of the test resemble the Maslow's hierarchy of needs, but what the teenagers consider safety and security must be discovered in detail as follows because it differs from Maslow's viewpoint. Choosing safety and security as a dominant value, the teenagers are not about the house, the roof over the head, the shelter, they are about psychological survival, about the sharp need to be appreciated in the group of peers, in that community the member of which a teenager is or wants to be.

Russian teenagers are concerned mostly about the adult life and the fact of greater responsibility. Doing everything on their own is a great step for a teenager, because the teenagers are often over controlled and over guarded by the parents. There is some tension between parents and children, or the 'generation gap'. In their eagerness to achieve adult status and live their own life, young people may resent any restrictions. They believe that their parents are overprotective, which usually creates tension. The 'generation gap' problem is inevitable. Every generation is unique in its experience, and young people have always rejected or at least questioned the values of their parents. They have always wanted to learn from their own experience, not from their parents' standards. Besides, every younger generation tends to be more educated and better-informed than the previous one; they grow more quickly and enjoy freedom more.

Teenagers in Great Britain are more agitated by healthy lifestyle, education, future profession. Girls in Britain are in a constant fear of putting on weight while in Russia the idea of body positivity is gaining ground. . Therefore, they resort to various weight reducing methods. The British teenagers are concerned about their relations with parents and friends, school overloads and

the issue of communication with the teachers and lack (or even absence) of pocket money. British teenagers learn to be independent from the early childhood, and they often do not have any problems with the job search. The college is generally chosen not only in terms of the list of expertise areas but also in terms of the remoteness from the parental house. Thus, young people try to quit the parental guard earlier and to start living on their own, and parents are ready to pass the responsibility for their life to their children. Personally, we think that British parents are confident in their UK that it is a good country to live in and that nothing will happen to their children.

Every British teenager strives to be loved and respected in the company, to be a leader. British teenagers have their dreams. Some of them dream to become rich, some – to find their love of life, get high grades, have good true friends, travel, have a pet, climb a mountain, etc.

There is little difference between Russian and British teenagers. The teenagers of both countries have similar purposes: to study, to have fun, to find a job, to enter the relations. A vivid difference is that English teenagers at the age of 14-16 years old are self-consistent and confident personalities, and in Russia the teenagers are often frustrated by the severe critique that they probably don't live up to the expectations, that lead to conflicts with the peers and parents. In Russia, parents overprotect teenagers, and not all parents are ready to let their children out from under the wing. In the UK, on the contrary, teenagers learn to be independent from childhood, they are not so much taken care of by parents who are confident in the safety of their children, and it is easier for them to solve problems related to independent activity. It is much more difficult for Russian teenagers to solve problems on their own, because parents constantly decide everything for them and immediately run to help, not letting the teenagers figure out and resolve the problem on their own. In general, the UK supports teenagers and provides them more opportunities for development, while Russia is more focused on keeping teenagers under the parental wing for as long as possible.

The conclusions we make are as follows. Communication with the peers plays a very important part in the teenager's life. Everyone strives to be loved, recognised and respected by the friends, to be a leader at school, at the workplace, in a group, in a family, but there may be a fear that in case of any problems you can be misunderstood. Everyone wants problems to be easily solved, to live separately from their parents and to have a prosperous life.

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Appendix



British teenagers



Russian teenagers



British teenagers at work



Russian teenagers at work