

The writer uses a source to further explain how child-rearing (parenting) might be the cause.

self-conscious, as well as more likely to be medicated for anxiety or depression. Similarly, children whose time is highly structured—crammed with lessons and adult-supervised activities—may have more difficulty developing their own “executive function” capabilities, the ability to devise their own plans and carry them out. Conversely, the more time children spend in free play, the better they develop these capabilities.

And Mike Lanza, a father who says that “kids have to find their own balance of power,” believes the following:

Basic developmental psychology posits that if children develop a fundamental sense that they (not their parents) are masters of their own destiny, they will be successful adults, and that without that belief they will flounder: It’s easy to want to rid yourself of a life that doesn’t feel truly your own. (Thernstrom)

By saying Lanza believes this, the writer prompts the reader to consider the issue, although no hard evidence is provided.

The final sentence above refers to “the rash of suicides among Palo Alto high school students in recent years,” which Lanza believes are “extreme examples of the larger problem.” Lanza thinks “organized sports fail to teach the critical life skills that he and his friends learned in pickup games they had to referee themselves [when they were] forced to resolve their own disputes, because if they didn’t, the game would end.” Lanza embraces the idea of antifragility, and sees helicopter parenting as the cause, or as *a* cause, of fragility and, therefore, weakness.

The difference between “the” and “a” is important.

Central to Mike’s philosophy is the importance of physical danger: of encouraging boys to take risks and play rough and tumble and get—or inflict—a scrape or two. Central to what he calls mom philosophy (which could just be described as contemporary parenting philosophy) is just the opposite: to play safe, play nice and not hurt other kids or yourself. (Thernstrom)

The reader is encouraged to consider what caused the cause?

A concluding concession.

Essays and arguments aren’t the final word on a topic. Instead, they prompt more thinking and responses.

If Millennials are weak—or *the weakest group of people ever*—one cause might be their parents’ parenting style, and that had to be caused by something—the Millennials grandparents? the role of technology? Of course Millennials have virtues too. And handgrip aside, we might think more about what it means to be “weak.”

Works Cited

Best, Chivali. “Why Millennials Have WEAK Handshakes: Lack of ‘Hard Work’ Means Young People Today Have Less Grip Strength.” *Daily Mail*, 22 June 2016, www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3654089/Why-millennials-WEAK-