

struggles. While agreeing that the brain is constantly changing, he dismisses Arnett's theory of emerging adulthood as a bogus psychological theory designed to give its inventor professional distinction. Instead, *Scammed Hard!* blames Generation Y's struggles on Baby Boomers' destruction of the economy combined with their promotion of dangerous levels of student debt and their encouragement of a comfortable middle-class lifestyle. By setting high expectations and then making those expectations impossible to fulfill, Boomers have destroyed Generation Y's incentives for hard work and sacrifice. *Scammed Hard!* believes that although drifting toward adulthood may provide Millennials with a fun distraction, it does not prepare them with the skills and motivation needed to find success in a destroyed economy.

Although both authors identify the negative impacts of Generation Y's delayed adulthood and call for society's urgent attention and action, Henig highlights the positive opportunities while *Scammed Hard!* focuses on the economic dangers. Both articles helped me understand why it is complicated to identify causes and propose solutions and nurtured my conviction that any workable solution must offer Millennials an active role in crafting society's response.

Both Henig and *Scammed Hard!* acknowledge that the current trends among Millennials are not unique to this generation (after all, the Baby Boomers themselves went through a hippie period). Nevertheless, they acknowledge that the problem of delayed adulthood is more widespread and troubling today. Using survey data, Henig compares the average age of marriage and the percentage of twentysomethings living at home in the 70s and today to show that delayed adulthood is more prevalent now. *Scammed Hard!* argues that even hippies eventually had to settle down and make productive contributions to society. Both authors worry about the long-term impacts to our society as Millennials take longer to reach adulthood and become innovative, industrious, taxpaying members of society.

While both authors accept the science on brain development, they disagree on the role it plays in causing the Millennials' problems. Henig uses the psychological research to suggest that it might be time for society to enact policies that enrich "the cognitive environment of people in their 20s" in order to better shape their brains for the demands of adulthood. As a science writer and parent of a Millennial, Henig constructs a balanced, reasoned discussion that builds trust with her readers—other parents and the larger society who may feel responsible for causing and solving the Millennials' problems. In contrast, *Scammed Hard!* refuses to "write off the problems my generation faces as merely 'normal stages of development.'" He thinks that focusing on a new "life stage" diverts attention from the urgent economic problems that drive this generation's reality and account for Millennials' anger, depression, and humiliating inability to support themselves. Writing as a Millennial from the "scam blog" movement, a loose band of law school students and graduates who feel cheated by the high cost of education and the limited availability of jobs, *Scammed Hard!* effectively employs his outrage to make a compelling argument for economic causes of Generation Y's problems. He believes that the Boomers' decision to outsource jobs, lend irresponsibly, and encourage student debt led to the catastrophic economic collapse that has limited Millennials' financial independence, whereas Henig thinks the economy has merely accelerated trends that already existed among Millennials before the Great Recession.

*Thesis statement with analytical points and synthesis points.*

*Analysis: compares and contrasts ideas in both texts and develops similarities in ideas.*

*Continuation of analysis section: writer analyzes differences in views.*

*Writer brings in rhetorical points to explain the differences.*

*Analyzes and elaborates on differences.*

*Continuation of analysis section focusing on the differences in the ideas in the two texts.*

*Writer brings in rhetorical points to explain the differences.*