

The differences in how each author views the causes of Generation Y's problems affect their proposed solutions. Henig thinks we should devote our resources to modifying and expanding social services that support Millennials of all income levels as their brains and identities develop. In contrast, Scammed Hard! urges Baby Boomers to fix the economy and calls on everyone to mobilize to create better incentives for hard work and innovation among the younger generation.

Henig's discussion of emerging adulthood raised some important questions for me. She mentions that the Boomer generation of "helicopter parents" might actually be pleased to be so involved in their children's lives. I wonder how much parents' willingness and capacity to help their children enables Millennials to delay adulthood. If my sister hadn't had the parent-subsidized option to spend three years volunteering and traveling and then return home to our parents' couch, would she have harnessed her talents and grown up earlier? And if mostly privileged Millennials are the ones choosing to delay adulthood, does it make sense to devote even more resources to this already well-supported group? Or should the social support systems be expanded to provide low-income Millennials similar opportunities for financial security and self-exploration?

After reading these articles, I am convinced that Generation Y's delayed adulthood is the result of many complex causes, not just one. These factors include shifts in cultural expectations for young adults, evolving parent-child relationships, collapse of the job market, and other economic realities created by the previous generation, and maybe also the effects of not-yet-mature twentysomething brains. The factors also likely reinforce each other, strengthening their collective impact. For example, perhaps Baby Boomer parents are subconsciously trying to cover up their guilt over the state of the economy by lifting their children's financial burdens. Also, because it is more culturally acceptable to marry later in life and medically possible to have kids during middle age, perhaps Millennials don't worry about a career because they do not yet need financial security for starting a family. Rather than tackle the complex causes of the problems, I sense that established adults find it easier to fret over Millennials' mental health and argue over who is to blame, making society at large guilty of the same inaction they accuse Millennials of.

However, when I think about my sister, I can't agree that Millennials are as inert as adults seem to think they are. What concerns me about the perspectives on Millennials is how often older generations view them as passive actors in their own lives. I think Millennials work a lot harder and more courageously than people realize and make active, intentional choices as best they can under the circumstances. Henig's piece, for all its measured evidence in its ten pages, fails to offer the authentic perspective of a Millennial voice. She should have talked to my sister, who worked very hard to survive on a retail salary while trying to navigate a home life she had left behind years earlier. However, as my sister devoted most of her energy to survival, she gave up on seeking other opportunities for herself. I think this happened because of her disappointment as she transitioned between life where hard work led to success and life where hard work led to a cycle of rejection and more hard work. When she faced the job market for a second time after earning a graduate degree, she submitted over fifty job applications, participated in multiple rounds of interviews for a total of eight

*Writer discusses how different perspectives on the problem lead to different proposed solutions.*

*Transition to synthesis section:*

*Synthesis point: writer explains how Henig's ideas have raised questions of personal interest and importance.*

*Synthesis point: writer asserts her own perspective, also showing how her analysis of the texts has informed her own views.*

*Synthesis point discusses the writer's own view.*

*Synthesis point asserts writer's independent thinking.*

*Elaborates on the connections the writer is making and delineates her differences from the two authors' ideas.*