

WHY ARE ROLE MODELS SO IMPORTANT FOR TODAY'S YOUTH?



Everyone has a role model. May it be someone from their own family, someone from their surroundings or a celebrity. But what defines a role model and how important is a role model for the young generation? These are probably questions nobody ever really asked themselves. Let's take a dive into this topic...

A role model is someone who inspires people through their behavior and certain characteristics. People usually admire their role model, look up to them and try to emulate them because they identify themselves with their role model. Having a role model is very important, having a good role model is even more important, because they influence what we do and how we eventually turn out.

From Michelle Obama, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Beyoncé, Gloria Steinem, Dorothy Pittman Hughes, Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Frida Kahlo. These are all women who can be seen as role models.

But what do they have in common? They all stood up for the things they believed in and spoke out against injustice of any kind in their own way. Some of them left great legacies behind and influenced the world greatly with their achievements and others are still doing anything in their power to fight against injustice to this day and to change the world for the better.

So why is it so important to have women like them as role models? Because these women and countless others have shown time and time again that there's no place for racism, sexism and discrimination towards minorities in this world. They educate their audience which among others consists of impressionable young teenagers. So in an era where ignorance and hate becomes more frequent, it's very important to have role models who advocate for equality, individuality, positivity, justice and most importantly aren't afraid to speak up against any kind of injustice.

Another important aspect is that, not everyone grew up in rich households and had the success being handed to them. Many people, especially teenagers get motivated due to the fact that their role models worked hard to be in the positions they are today.

Women like Ariana Grande, Selena Gomez and many other singers show their audience that life is not always picture perfect and that it's okay to not be okay sometimes. They raise awareness on important topics like mental health, gender inequality, racial inequality and empower their audience not only through their art.

People who have a role model function also help people through hard times (directly or indirectly). May it be through their art, through the things they say or the things they do.

Another question people might ask themselves is: can role models be fictional? Of course they can. If a character from a movie or book has desirable character traits, you're most likely to mimic or emulate them. They can influence your life just as much as a „real“ role model. It's actually just as important to have fictional role models because they encourage your creativity and through them you're able to take a little break from life from time to time.

So to conclude everything that has been said so far, having a role model is very important for teenage boys and girls because most of the time they search for someone to look up to, to emulate their role models behavior and shape their identity. And that's why real as well as fictional role models are very important.