



parent tips



ENTITLEMENT: Symptoms & How to Combat Them

Source: *Generation Z Unfiltered* | Pgs 123 - 131 | By Tim Elmore & Andrew McPeak

Symptoms of Entitlement:

Possessing a sense of entitlement brings expectations and assumptions with it. Without even thinking, we develop these expectations that naturally lead to problems. We expect more from other people. We desire more and believe we need more to get by.

Some of the most common symptoms of entitlement in our students are:

- Impatience - "I want it now."
- Laziness - "I don't want to work for it. I want it because everyone else has it."
- Fragility - "I want someone else to fix my problems."
- Irresponsibility - "I don't want to clean up my messes."
- Anger - "I am mad that you won't give me what I want."
- Disillusionment - "I want someone else to make me happy."

David Drury First proposed: *"kids cannot be disillusioned until they are first illusioned."* By this, he meant that we only become miserable and disappointed when we've embraced some fictional expectation about what life should be like. The sooner we scrap those illusions, the faster kids can pursue what is genuinely satisfying.

How to Combat Entitlement:

Tim Elmore, author of *Gen Z Unfiltered*, says *"Today we live in a unique period of time when we've taught our kids to advocate for their rights (which is a good thing), but we did so without combining it with equal responsibilities."*; indicating that we've often neglected to teach that all rights come with corresponding responsibilities.

If you want to develop a balance between rights and responsibilities with Gen Z, consider utilizing some of these suggestions:

1. Whenever you create a new role be sure you communicate both the right and responsibility for that role.
2. Whenever a younger person demands a right, determine what the accompanying responsibility should be before you give it to them.
3. Teach students that rights are earned through trust. If parents pay for their child's phone, they have the right to look at their social media account. Over time, the child may earn the right to privacy through their trustworthy actions.

4. Consistently communicate how healthy lifestyles operate:

- When teens turn 18, they can enlist to serve in the military, but they also get the right to vote.
- When a person only rents an apartment they are not responsible for the grounds maintenance. When they buy a home, they are. They own it.
- When a person earns an income, they are responsible to pay taxes on it. Without a job, there's no responsibility to pay income taxes.

Everything is a trade-off. That's how life works. That's how choices work. When we provide a life with only one of the two (rights or responsibilities) without the other, we do a disservice to our young adults. Rights and responsibilities are navigated best through a trusting relationship between a student and adult. In the end, this diminishes a sense of entitlement.