

Example #1

One might say that dating is old fashioned in today's world, and in some ways it is. When looking back in our grandparents generation, things have changed drastically. Some important causes that factor into the change is technology or even the beginning of single parents. People may still go on dates, technically, but the way they go about it still differs greatly in comparison.

Growing up in this generation and being a kid from the 90's I have lived in the major years of what I believe was when the majority of families were turning to divorce or separations. A lot of my friends' parents were divorced, even my own parents were divorced. But, a lot of their parent's parents, including mine were still married or maybe widowed. This has a lot to do with how dating has changed and how people meet.

I interviewed a man, aged 66 about dating when he was younger. He agreed that dating has definitely taken a turn, maybe for the worst. When asked about dating when he was younger and he said, "Compared to now its considered old fashioned. You had to ask someone's parents if you wanted to go out on a date with them." Today, we don't necessarily have to ask permission to date anyone. A lot of time parents are busy, especially single parents so they are not able to dabble in their kids' lives. A lot of it though, comes down to everyone wanting their privacy, including younger kids. So, they don't feel like they need to tell their parents anything, let a lone have their date ask them

to take them out.

As Americans we have certain customs that grow as the economy or as technology grows and changed. Privacy is a custom that the majority if not all Americans hold high in priority. We even have laws to protect our privacy. Some ideas about privacy have become misconstrued and disoriented. Media has caused a breakage in our private lives by having social networks like Facebook where we tell everyone what we are doing day to day, minute to minute, but then we get upset when people talk about what we consider private. This has a lot to do with dating and why its difficult to be old fashioned these days, with the internet making everything so accessible, single parents not being able to be the deciding factor on who or when their kid goes out, and people wanting their personal lives private.

I also asked this man if they kissed on the first date when he was younger and what the differences were in dating today and back then. He explained to me that back then, yes they did kiss, but that was it. He said for them, that was exciting enough! What kids now days might do with one another was usually considered taboo for them.

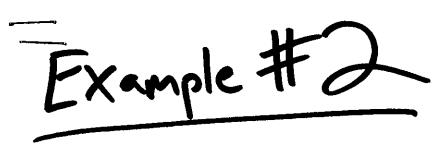
Although things did happen behind closed doors they were not as open about them.

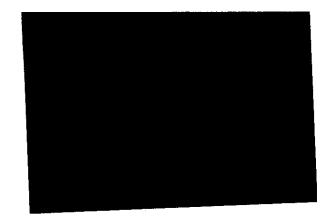
People didn't know other peoples business and they were a lot more careful. He stated, "There's more intensity in dating today. They don't understand that you don't go beyond kissing and things like that. Parents are letting their kids get involved in relationships that shouldn't be the way they are at that age." When asked to explain why he thought this was he told me, "A lot of its easy to see with single parents. These kids of single parents get these responsibilities of raising siblings and sometimes they want to get out and be free from that, but they don't realize that's the not the way."

While talking with him, I realized that some things were the same, such as being sort of promiscuous by dating a lot of other people and there certainly were teenage pregnancies, but they weren't nearly as often. We also talked about the differences in meeting people that you may be interested in dating. He explained, "I think people used to have to go through a lot when meeting each other. We would have to call the girl and have them meet you at a certain place at a certain time. We didn't have very much technology back then." He went on then to tell me how he thought media impacted dating. He explained you could just get on the computer and meet someone very easily and with texting and cell phones now days, people have become more accessible. He joked about when he was young and not a lot of people had phones, saying they had to send smoke signals. So, if they were going into town or anything they had to meet someone and talk to them. That was the only chance they got.

Now, we can go online and shoot someone an email on their personal profile, get a number from a friend and text them. And if we were to ask them on a date it would be so easy to get a hold of them.

So, yes dating has changed and there are some similarities, but American customs have grown and pushed them to the extremes. Technology, family structure, and privacy play great roles in how we go about dating. When, back then there wasn't much of a such thing as technology, families even if they had problems still tried to stick it out, and privacy was though about in a different light.





Interview

My interview was conducted with a 65 year old male whom is a Rosebud Sioux tribal member. He is a family friend that was a lot of fun to interview. He was able to explain what he felt the differences were in dating and relationships between his generation and the current generation.

I began by asking a set of questions that I felt would get a perspective of his views on dating and relationships in comparison to what he sees today. The first question I asked was, "When you were young, do you consider your dating and relationships typical of your generation?" He responded that he felt it was typical and he had casual relationships with females and more serious relationships with women that came from various cultural backgrounds. By this he meant he had experiences with different types of families in communities.

The rest of our interview consisted of similar questions that compared his experience in dating as a young man to his view of todays dating culture. At a younger age, relationships came from families and social gatherings, and as he got older, dating was by introduction through friends. It became very apparent, throughout the interview, that it was important that his parents and family were aware of and condoned of his relationships. It was also important to him that the parents and family of the girls he dated accepted him as well as his family accepted her. His relationships were always monitored.

He views that this is not always happening today. Kids have been exposed to more television, games, and music that promote sex as a priority in relationships. He accepts that as change, but does not necessarily agree with it. He also believes the loss of the family structure has resulted in a lot of young people not being given the opportunity to have parents teach them the values of a respectful relationship. This combined with contemporary media had resulted in many young people having children out of wedlock and not being taught that relationships involve friendship and sharing instead of just sex.

Interestingly, my interview also resulted that he did see some people in the younger generation being raised by parents that are trying to teach their children values and create better opportunities for healthy relationships. He feels that some younger parents who have teenage children are now more aware of media and loss of family structure. They are adjusting their parenting skills to deal with those contemporary issues that he didn't have in his generation.

The interview revealed that during his youth, dating styles were significantly different then what goes on today. It was clear that his parents and family were a very important part of his relationships. It was important that where he went and who he went with, were known by his parents and siblings, as he was the youngest of five children. Friendship and doing things together were a priority.

The interview revealed that a lot has changed in several generations when it comes to dating. Also, I was impressed with his optimism that younger parents, many of them single with teenage children, are better at coping with the issues their children face.

My client hopes that things will get better for today's generation!

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