

# Pressure of Youth

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I feel like we were expected to work out our purpose by the time we started secondary school at age 11. We needed to have an idea of what we were destined to do for the rest of our life so that we can then decide which subjects we study for GCSE's aged 14, we can decide which subjects we study for A-Levels aged 16 and which decide which subjects we study at University aged 18. These ages are all so young! How can everyone be expected to learn who they are by these ages nevermind all following this path of experience at the same rates? You need to experience life in order to understand what your purpose is. You haven't experienced life when you are 11, 14, 16, 18 - at least not as much as you have yet to.

So many times I hear people criticise young people for doing a degree in something they weren't passionate about, but these are the same voices who criticise young people for not knowing what they want to do. Life sometimes feels like a mind field of knowing who to listen to when each person is pushing you in a different direction. It is so hard. I guess the answer is that the only voice you have to follow is your own. Yes, listen to everyone; but remember to question where these opinions come from and allow them to question your own opinions in order to shape and solidify them.

I feel so lucky that I have kind of always known what I wanted to do. I wanted to be a journalist because I found it fun but also because it will allow me to travel which is what allows me to experience life. But for many, it's not that simple and for many travel won't be what they need to experience life - even if this is what the holiday companies tell you.

There's no guide book on your purpose. You can't research it, study it or ask someone else because it's unique to every single person regardless of genetics or environment.

Maybe our purpose is simple. Maybe it's the time old philosophy that our purpose is to love one another. Spread respect and positivity and push each other to be the best we can be.

Or maybe our purpose is to learn as much as we can possibly learn. Understand as many subjects in as much detail as we can.

I have no answers. In fact I'm annoyingly one of those people who has millions of questions. However, I want anyone reading this to know that you are loved even if you have no idea where you're going in your life. To remember that each person's purpose is different to the next so do not judge another's choice. And finally, experience life like it will end tomorrow. Because you never know when it will.