

Interview questions

- Who would you consider popular? Why?
- Would you consider yourself to be popular? Why?
- Do you care if you are popular or not? Why?
- Do you think that popularity is as important as we make it seem?
- Popularity causes more and more teens each year to be diagnosed with depression and eating disorders, what do you think about this?
- Do you think social media plays a big part in high school popularity? Why?
- Do you think that being popular causes more teens to drink and smoke? Why?
- Do you think that not being popular causes more teens to drink and smoke? Why?
- Have you ever thought of turning to substance abuse to heighten your social status?

Brae believes that jocks, cheerleaders, preps, and bad kids are popular because of their athleticism and bad-attitudes. He feels like he is kinda popular because he used to be popular in his old school for somethings that were not of good decision, but when he came to Central it was a fresh start for him. Brae like everyone else doesn't feel the need to be popular but wants people to still like him. He believes that after high school popularity means nothing to us, it takes us nowhere. Brae also thinks that popularity can cause more and more teens to develop eating disorders and depression because of their need to be like others. In Brae's life like many other teens, social media plays a big part in high school popularity because it is showing how some people's lives are better than everyone else. He thinks that teens tend to drink and smoke more whether or not they are popular, so there is no way of getting away from it. But Brae will never do that because he wants people to like him for him and not the fake person they want him to be.

Allison does not know that many people, so she doesn't feel like she knows who in the school is popular and who in the school is not. She feels like she is not popular at all because she does not know too many people and no one knows her around the school. But Allison does not care about her popularity in high school because to her everyone feels different about everyone and not everyone is going to like everyone. She believes that popularity holds too much weight and there are more important things to do than try to become popular. Allison believes that high schooler tries too hard to fit in that they develop all these disorders because it is a natural instinct to fit in and be like everyone else. She thinks that social media is a way for people who don't normally talk to each other to get a look into their picture-perfect lives, but the only part of their lives put on social media is staged. To Allion even if you are popular

or not you don't have to drink and smoke, it is a choice that you make. It is really peer pressure that puts you in situations where you smoke and drink to get popularity or because you have none. Allison has never thought of turning to substance abuse to make herself more popular because she doesn't see the point of doing something stupid like that.

Mallory thinks that the popular kids in school are the kids that stand out of the crowd and the kids on sports teams because of their clothes, who they hang out with, and how they act towards others. She would consider herself popular because that is what she is told by everyone else and she kinda likes it, she thinks it's nice to have so many friends and she thinks it would be cool to win homecoming queen. Mallory might like being popular and all that, but she still believes that it is not as important as we make it out to be and it causes a lot more problems than it needs to. She thinks that everyone takes popularity too personally and more people need to see that they are the reason that they have problems because an eating disorder is something you bring upon yourself. Mallory believes that social media plays a big part in who we think is popular and who we don't because we base everything off of who gets the most likes, has the most followers, who looks the best even when all of these photos are photoshopped anyways. She thinks that whether or not you are popular you should do what you want and not other people deem as cool, also drinking because you are sad is stupid and you should just be chill. Mallory is very open about everything she has done, but she has never done any of it to make herself seem cooler to other people. She does it because she wants to and she knows how to act under the influence unlike all of the other people that drink to seem cooler to everyone else.

Taylor is not really sure who is popular because she doesn't have time to care about that. They are really pointless and she doesn't care about popularity in the slightest, it just causes her to feel worse than she already does. Taylor brought a different view to popularity talking about how it is different in a political aspect than in a school setting. In politics, it is very important to be popular among the voters because you want them to choose you and you put on this fake face to seem like you are a perfect person. But in high school, Taylor would rather people not like her because she is being herself rather than like her for being someone fake. She believes that popularity causes a lot of mental and physical illnesses, but at the same time she knows that there are many other factors to them and that it is not just because of popularity. Just as everyone else says, she thinks that social media plays a big part in popularity because everyone she knows has some type of media connection. Taylor believes that we drink because we are peer pressured into drinking and smoking to seem popular in the eyes of others or as a way to cope, that also goes for not being popular and Taylor has personally smoked and it was not because she wanted to be popular. She sees no benefit in turning to drinking and smoking to make yourself seem cool for four years of your life.

Corinthia says that all of the people that play sports are popular to her because they play sports and everyone knows them, she doesn't consider herself to be popular and she likes it that way because being popular is too much pressure for her. Corinthia agrees with everyone else that popularity is nowhere near as important to our lives as we make it seem and that

fewer people should try so hard to be skinny because we just shouldn't care about popularity. She thinks like everyone else that social media plays a big part in high school popularity and that all we ever worry about is the number of likes we get on a post and how many comments we get hyping us up. Corinthia believes that we don't drink and smoke to become popular or because we are not popular, she believes that the only reason we do these is peer pressure and the need to feel special. She has never thought of turning to substance abuse to seem cooler because she wants to live a long and lung cancer or heart attack free life.