

What? All right. Yeah. Oh, it's two versus- The fishbowl has now begun. Wait, wait. You have a question? Is it like- Who starts? ... me versus Peyton, or is it back to- Oh, no, no. It's just like a discussion. All right. Y'all are all talking together. So in fact, if y'all could like scoot out where y'all can see one another on each side.

You know what I mean? Like this. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I like really like the setup. Like that whole, and oh. Oh. Yeah, be careful with the mic. Oh. Oh. Careful with the mic. Oh, yeah. All right. Sorry. Um, three, two, one. All right. I think it's okay. Anybody can start. Uh, why don't somebody start by saying, "I heard you say something interesting," in their group.

Okay? I heard in my group somebody say that, um, in 2010 to 2020 emergency room visits for self-harm in girls spiked. But, you know, that doesn't have to be because of the phones. It can be because of pressure from s- academics and sports, you know, sports. And I mean, all of us, almost all of us in here do a sport.

Obviously we're all smart. We're in this class. So you know, there's pressure, and that can make us anxious and sad, depressed, and make some of us want to do something like that. Does- To s- Werner, are jumping in? Yeah. And you don't have to raise your hand or, or anything. I'm waiting, I'm waiting on him now, not on you.

How do you get to the main argument? To start on, to bounce more off that, um, unsupervised, unrestricted play teaches children many things. Risk-taking skills is one of the most important of those, and misconstrued risk assessment plays a lot into when people fall down the rabbit of self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

A lot of times it's just misunderstood risk comparison, if that makes sense. Come here. It's mine now. Um, when children lack risk-taking skills, they fail to understand how things can... And not even just risk-taking skills. General sociability and social skills, like risk-taking skills and empathy, results in, uh, misinformed decision-making.

And without unrestricted play, when children are guided through their entire lives by pa- parents or teachers or whatever, they don't have their own assessment of risk or decision-making, leading them down rabbit holes like self-harm and anxi- anxiety disorders, et cetera. Yeah. So it's a parenting issue then, yeah?

Yes. Perhaps. They become too, they become too dependent on factors that are out of their control. Mm. Back to, um-

I would like to counter that with- Marley, what- With social me- Sorry, you go on ... with social media- Come on. I got it. Yeah, sorry. With social media, um, there was a big break around stigma around mental health. That means a lot of people were conversing. A lot of people were talking about mental health. A lot of people had, like, there's a s- statistic about, um, like 100K people decided to look, like, look up what mental health was and what anxiety and depression was, and just that brought them to seek a diagnosis.

It wasn't the fact that it was pressures of the phone on them. It was the pressure or it was the enlightenment of s- social awareness. But I... That's like, that could be useful for like adults researching wanting to get help for their, um, like mental issues. But for like children who are under the age of 16 on social media, there's not a lot of, "Oh, let me find out what I can do."

It's just an algorithm getting pushed on them that could harm them. It could lead them to having body image issues, to being anxious, to not wanting to talk to people, um, eating disorders, stuff like that. I actually have a statistic that is very recent. 12-year-olds with smartphones are 30-- have 30% higher odds of being depressed, 40% higher odds of obesity, and 60% higher odds of insufficient sleep, and that's just simply phone or no phone.

I'd like to bring up, um, when talking about the when children turned to smartphones, 2012. I'd like to propose the point that a lack of control over their own lives directly resulted in turning to being online. When you are online, you are in control of what you're doing, what you're seeing. How-- I know most of us have had a phone for a long time.

Most of us have not had parental controls on that phone for a long time. You get to have control over who you are and what you get to do online. Um, and also to bring up your point about s- what children see online in terms of they're not necessarily finding these resources. They are finding things that are more negative to them than not. Um, I can't speak for everyone, but I know I have seen advertisements for things like BetterHelp, a very popular online therapy service.

I see TikTok posts all the time of people- You've been scrolling for too long. Let's take a break. I, I see TikTok posts- Sorry about that ... of people celebrating their mental health successes- Mm-hmm ... and celebrating the things they did to overcome the things that they need to do, talking about how many days clean they are off of self-harm or drugs or anything, talking about people in their lives that helped them and things they did to help them get out of the dark place that they were in.

I'd also like to note that TikTok specifically builds their algorithm based off things that you look up, things that you interact with. Um, if you're interacting with things like- Things to promote eating disorders, things to- And that has to- De- depressing content ... that would have to start outside of the phone before that algorithm was built.

But the, the thing is is that these kids that are under 16, they're not developed enough to make those decisions of maybe I shouldn't interact with this. Maybe I shouldn't look this up. They don't know that they're gonna be trapped in this algorithm bec- they don't have the mental capacity to do that. So they make that one decision, and then they're just trapped in that.

Mm-hmm. And then they're scrolling for forever. They're staying up all night. They're seeing things that they shouldn't see. Even though they're not specifically going and looking up eating disorders- Correct ... if one video comes up and they- Mm-hmm ... interact with it somehow 'cause they don't know better, and then it just- It's made to be like- So you're saying, so- Yeah, and that's like the point of- The point is, like, you find something you're interested in, you like it, it comes up with something like that, and it just builds off of-

So you're saying- I think that's like the point of this activity

So you're saying the issue is a lack of decision-making skills in young children? I would like to pose where do you think those d- Carter said children don't have the decision-making skills to understand what they're interacting with and how they're- I said it's not- It's not with restrictions. I said they're not developed enough.

Yeah. They claim they do. Yes, that develop- the development of those decision-making skills would come about through free, unrestricted play 'cause they'd understand the things they're doing that is wrong. But even when a kid is that age, regardless of what they've been, like, their brain, no matter how they've been raised, how much play they've had, it's still not developed enough to make responsible decisions about that could lead into their entire future.

Do you have a, a reason for thinking they can't develop those decision-making skills? I would argue that kids don't even-

Because it's the only form of free play they have now, because the other forms have been taken away and has been consistently- We don't have that as a backup California law

So you agree that it's a parenting issue?

So what age do you think they should be allowed to have phones? Um, I definitely think it should be restricted

What do you recommend they do without that phone time? They go- Oh gosh. We, all of us agree- We agree about the play like- We all agree- So I'd like to... We all agree children should play. The issue is that we are not parents. Pa- there is a re- That was our argument. There is a reason, there is a reason that unrestricted and unguided play has been downtrending, and it's not the children choosing not to do so.

Right. It's been on a downtrend since the '50s. All right. So, um, I would like to open it up to a general question. You can use your data or not. Um, and let why are kids showing decreased cognitive function in any way? Your own answers now, and try to integrate anything that you learned from your research about this and what you think government might do.

And I just to humor myself, everybody, come up with a number for me, for me. In America, what percentage of parents would you say are bad? 70. Like almost like- 60 to 70. More than there should be. Yes. Over half? Yes. Yes. Mm-hmm. Okay. So- Wait, what do you- Yeah, define bad ... what do you mean by bad? Oh yeah, define bad.

Define bad Not, not- Bad, like, just like they, they're not gonna, they're not gonna watch their kids closely. They're gonna give their kids stuff too early they shouldn't have. No one's bad. 60 to 70. 60 to 70. Yeah. So definitely over half. Like, in this generation, like- This argument will come up again and again where somebody will say it's a parenting issue.

Now, if we establish early that 60 to 70% of the parents are bad out there, then you're saying 60 to 70% of the, the, the kids, like, tough luck. There's nothing we can do, and it's a hopeless situation if you just put it on parenting. So a- as a society, we, we all are responsible for how kids are treated because they have no choice in life.

You don't choose who your parents are. But, like, when you come to a school or a public place or you, you wanna get a job or something like that, it's supposed to, like, be fairer and not completely depend on money. That's like an aristocracy, like kings and queens and stuff. Like, that's when your family name matters.

In a democracy where everybody's equal, your parents not mattering as much is what that means. Like, we're all equal. It doesn't matter if your parents are terrible, you still have a shot. So I just wanna throw that out there, uh, early in the class because it's such an enticing argument. Like, "How's about the parents?"

Like, yeah, but they suck. Yeah. So that's it? Like, we're just gonna be addicted to phones and everything else because parents are not doing a good job. Um, so but I wanna hear from y'all just as a human. Uh, and, and let's all of a sudden, like, teen unhappiness. What... and anxiety. What is going on? You can blame school.

You can blame me. You can blame- Okay, so you want an actual answer. You don't want the answer you gave us. I want what you guys say and feel and examples from your life. But if you're gonna bring up school, don't bring up another teacher's name. All right? Okay, so Leah, I'm gonna call on you. I would like to start.

Okay. I think what resonates the most with me is the internal, external locus of control. I think a lot of my life is out of control in my opinion. Like, um, school, college admissions, you can try to formulate how you wanna present yourself to them as much as you want, but if they don't want you, they don't want you, and then you have to figure out what you wanna do with your life.

I, as someone who is direct-- I have major depressive or- disorder. I take medication for major depressive disorder, and I can tell you it's- I can't tell you it's biology, but there are things... It's so easy now to give your child a phone. I agree with the phone argument, but I also agree with there aren't s- p- spaces and accessibil- accessible areas or transportation to give, especially young teens, tweens, an area to be around their friends, a place to have free play.

And I do believe that hindered my decision-making skills, and I do believe that that's played a very negative role in my mental health. Like, we don't have pub- There, there's no public transportation in the city of Pascagoula. Does not exist. You can ride a bike in downtown. There is not public transportation.

There are not teen spaces. There are not-- There's one park, two parks? One large park. Good stories to his point. Uh, any stories of, like, you're hanging out in a public space and the cops break it up?

Oh, thanks, bro. In a public space, not making too much ru- Yeah. People don't want teens to loiter. Teens want to loiter. Loitering is our whole thing. Any stories?

Probably like Waffle House. Yeah. Oh, I have been asked to leave a Waffle House. No ID in? Me, Cooper, Sev, and Jackson got removed from a Waffle House. Who? Me, Cooper, Sev, Jackson. Got kicked out? Yeah. It was like, and after, after a football game, the cheerleaders and the football people went to the Waffle House, and they all like, 'cause they called the cops on us.

Oh, yeah, I remember that. We were with y'all. That's on me. Okay, so no Waffle House. How, how about on the beach? If you just say like, "Let's just hang out in the parking lot on the beach." I mean- I've never done that I've seen cops pull over people though. Yeah. Mm-hmm. Okay. Um, all right, so I don't mean to interrupt.

I was just like, I, I, it's a thing. Like if you- Mm-hmm ... in the mall, do y'all go to the mall and hang out? Oh, my gosh. Yes, but it's a money thing. Teens- That is a money thing. It's been so long ... but you said, "Oh, my gosh." What were you gonna say? The malls are like not really, not, yeah, they're literally dying. Like, they're not malls.

They're dead. I think, like over time they're just like gonna cut off, 'cause everything's online now. Parents will just drop you off at the movies or the mall. What about the movies? The movies- There's an age limit ... yeah. There's age limits for the movies. Yeah, I feel like- There's a curfew. There's an age limit at the movies, at the mall.

I doubt y'all are not aware. There are policies at the mall where you cannot be a, a roving band of teenagers at the mall. Really? Yeah, yeah, there's the same kind of rule at, at a lot of malls. I don't know about Edgewater, but- And it's a fear thing. Parents are also... It's not just these policies in these private institutions, which they have every right to have the policies and not let us be there.

Even if they didn't, how many of our parents have our location- Mm ... don't let us, didn't let us out by ourselves for a long time? Parents are afraid of their own communities. We're not seeing, like neighborhoods, like, like the perfect Am- the American dream. You'd have the bunch of houses in a row, and a picket fence, and all the kids were out on the street playing baseball.

You don't see that anymore, 'cause parents are afraid of their communities- True ... and don't wanna let their kids out there.

To generalize, yeah

Big like round shape

It's a generalization But it's also not a smart ... Well, I know for, I live in Delaware

Down here, yeah, it's definitely more private. Yeah. People have bigger yards. You don't know everyone that lives out there. But just like in DeKalb a few months ago, or maybe this was a little bit longer, you know, parents let this little girl out, and she trapped herself inside of like, you know, these, those big plastic containers, and she died.

And the parents didn't go check on her. People can say it's the parents' fault, but we're also saying, you know, the parents should let their kids go play. But I think that it's more of that, you know, parents are gonna wanna be checking on their kid more, and what's just easiest to do now is to just keep them inside.

And I don't think that the depression thing is just because of like, you know, we're not playing as much. I think that it, that is definitely- No, it's not just that. Yeah, I think that is definitely a big factor- factor. But I think one of the biggest things now is that, like online, we're shown that we should all have these cliques, we should all have these friends, we should all have these groups.

We should all be, you know, hanging out all the time. And for people that, you know, aren't necessarily in these like groups that do stuff every day, that is hard. I know I've struggled with that personally I would like to- Also, I don't think it's just, like, the parents. It's, like, kids. Yes. Like, we're old enough to, like, see what's going on in the world and- Yeah, it's different for us than it is for an 11 or 12 year old.

But I think about, like, my sisters. My, I have a 12, 12 year old younger sister and a seven year old younger sister, and they don't have, like, friends they go outside and play with. That's sad, and I know they're not a, a, a lone case in that. Like, they don't have these spaces, and it, to talk about what you said about just the world being unsafe, creating safe spaces to, for children to have free play is, like, what I'm saying should happen.

I would also like to pose a question. To people putting the entirety of the blame on their phones, being, like, entirely honest, there's no shame here, do you think you would be happier if you, if right now you got rid of your phone or deleted all social media off your phone? I think it would be-

better if we never had it in the first place. Yeah. Yeah. I think because it's not about, let's, people be happier if we take their phone away, it's about for the, the people that are growing up right now to start that of- Restriction ... let's limit them. The problem, the main problem is- Let's not get them started on it

the main problem is giving it and taking away isn't going to fix the thing. Yeah. It's, as your child is growing up, like, delaying the process of giving a child a phone- Yeah, I- ... because that can obviously affect- They're dependent on it

... the child ... I was just more curiosity. That wasn't meant to, like... 'Cause I think, no, I wouldn't be, but I also entirely agree with social media has had a horrible effect on my life.

Like, it's been more negative than it has positive, even if it's not, that's not the case currently. For sure with all the comparisons, going back to Daylen, you see these people, you wanna be them, but you can't. You physically can't help some of these things. And also, going back to, like, kids wanna rebel, and if you take away what they have, they're gonna wanna do it even more.

And, uh, it's just, like, if you, like, just stop, going back to, like, even the prohibition, people wanted to drink even though you took it away. So they're gonna want it more if you do laws and, like, stop it. That's gonna create more problems, honestly, in my opinion. To answer- Then it's almost too late. Like- Yes, it's way too late to do anything I, I would say it's too late to be able to take it away- Yeah

because it's- Yeah, I, I understand ... everyone is so dependent on it when it comes to parents, when it comes to us now- And, like, life ... and, and it's everything. You can't go back now ... it's everywhere. But, like, that's not, like, like, we're not saying, like, just take it away. Right. Yeah. Like, that's, it's just, like- It's more of a restriction Restrict

exactly, restrict and honestly just, like- Wait for older age 'Cause like once you're 16, 18, I mean, you have the right- Mm-hmm ... to be on the internet- Right ... unrestricted. Yeah. But- And really young and old at that point ... if you're, if you're, like, growing up middle school, like, the first- Mm-hmm ... two years of high school- Mm-hmm

it's, like, it shouldn't, you shouldn't have unrestricted access, and you can start that, and it's not gonna be like, "Oh, they're all gonna find some way to be on it." It's just, it's gonna be the normal, "Oh, we can't get on it until this age." But then going back, kids are gonna wanna do that even- Mm-hmm ... 'cause you stop the rule at a random time at this and that, and then the parents, that's also the parents' problem.

Parents can do that personally. You can restrict your kids based on how you feel. Okay, let's brainstorm then. I have a question about the parents thing. Yeah, I was, I was about to- But about the parents thing. Mm-hmm. Like, like, go back to cigarettes. Yeah. Before cigarettes were banned, was it like, "Oh, parents should be able to know if their kids are getting cigarettes and should stop them or not"?

Like, or alcohol. Like, that's just, how does, how are, how is all the responsibility being put on the parents- Mm-hmm ... when the government does kind of have a duty to act- But they did the- ... when it's harming all the children in the country? Think about this. The voting age is 21. You know how much underage drinking we have?

It doesn't matter. And you can do the government, the kids wanna rebel. They're gonna go under the age. They're gonna go under the law no matter what anyone says, even parents or not. So to go back to Mr. Tim's question, what do we think go- should be done? What should the government do to try to combat this teenage unhappiness epidemic?

Oh, my body's so perfect. This is that when that is obviously not the perfect body. It's like false advertising. Yes. So- The false advertisement or guys saying that they need to be on all these like GLP-1s and all these like crazy peptides to look a certain way and be like, "Oh yeah, I'm natural." When no you're not, you're advertising incorrectly, and that's what causes all these insecurities, and then people being obsessed with the internet because they wanna keep on seeing stuff like that.

Yeah. And then it... your brain is like seeing these things and being like, "Oh, this is true. I should look like this." Or

Me too, girl. Me too, girl ... is that it's because of people who post or what you're seeing- To have, like, regulations ... yeah, 'cause you ... Like, obviously you can see it, but the main problem what you're, with what you're saying

is who's posting it. Because- But I think it's been a- ... whoever's posting is, oh, skinny, you know, lucky. Yeah, I feel like- They're probably not 13 years old ... well, I feel like it's not even just, like, the skinny thing, but I feel like it will promote posting, like, I don't know, personally for me, if I'm, like, struggling with something-

and I'm seeing people, like, post about them struggling with something often, that isn't gonna help me 'cause it's gonna remind me of the fact that, oh, I'm upset too. Like, I feel like we should be posting more, like, positive things or if you are struggling, like, these are things that you should do to help with those things rather than, like-

'Cause we shouldn't be okay with being silent. We should want to be heard. To tie this back to like- Like, this has been a topic of conversation, like, for many years now. Yes, it's been happening. We need more positive stuff. And it's gotten better. It's gotten better. It's gotten way better. It's just we can't only promote the positive stuff.

You can't legis- Y'all are putting it on you. Like, what about the social media companies? Yeah. You can't legis- That's what I was gonna bring up. You can't le- you certainly cannot legislate what people post. That's, like, directly- Yeah ... a First Amendment right violation. And when you try to legislate what people see, we saw this in a really ear- in one of the first readings we did.

When you try and legislate what people see, it becomes a very slippery slope into whatever side of, whatever side of the aisle is in power, that is what you're going to see. You also have to keep in mind, social media isn't, has turned into so much more than social media. It is now political media. It is now how you see...

You, I know not a single one of you reads a newspaper. Yeah. Everything you know about what's happening in the world right now is from your TikTok For You page. Yes. If we s- I watch the news. Okay, yes. But if you... Although I know a lot of people don't. I don't. Um, you can't... You have to, it's a very fine line to walk, and I think that's why lobbying.

But other than lobbying, that's a part of the reason why Congress has had such an issue with legislating this because they can't let, you can't let, you can't control what people see- Mm-hmm ... 'cause then you won't see anything. Yeah. Knowledge is power, and once you take away power from the people, are we even a democracy?

Yeah. But we do, like, they do control what we see. Like, they block us from things, and they like- That's true. Yeah, that's an issue ... we don't know what's going on on the other side of the world 'cause they're, they're blocking it from us. It's true. That's it. I did, I talked about this in one of my Bill Works.

Uh, TikTok's horrible about that. TikTok will actively block content that doesn't support Oracle's political beliefs. Mm-hmm. And that is horrible and should not be possible. Okay. So I had just another kinda avenue I wanted to hear from you guys about, um, uh, you guys have been talking about social media posts and lack of privacy, um, and the, the FOMO and the k- the comparison machine that phones are.

But the, the thing I, when my, my kids got phones, it was just like, it was, you can, you can see any- more. Like, I can't even imagine what you're gonna see until you're, like, 10. You're-- And the, the, the lo- the loss of innocence, like being... I remember when I first saw, like, dead people. It was photos in a library.

It was, like, a Vietnam War book, or, or World War II. I think it was Holocaust. It just, like, it shook me. I remember the first time I saw, like, pictures of, of sex, you know? Like, uh, and faded pictures in the woods that kids would sneak off from their parents, you know, and, like, bury in the leaves, and they looked like zombies, and it was horrifying.

Uh, and just those things that, like... But they-- All that, seeing it for the first time in that way really, you just feel your innocence. Just like, your ki- your childhood can just end in five seconds just seeing something, and you can't undo it. And I'm just wondering, like, what percentage of American kids have that experience now and how early?

High. High. Very high. Nearly 100. Yeah. Nearly 100. Each and every one of us witness pornographic material in some way at a way too early of an age, and I can promise you that. The real- Whether, whether you're- Like videos of dads and- Whether you're searching it out or not, it's, like, there has, there's a TikTok epidemic every month of a new viral porn video that's gotten past TikTok censorship.

Mm-hmm. Yeah. It's whether you want to or not. So then- Like you c- it's- It comes up. Hey, is that when you're talking- My. That is not- I do not know what you're talking about. Brought to you by Pfizer. Uh, I mean- All radio shows ... what's, what's crazy to me is there's not a, there's not an office in, in like an elementary school, and on the doors it's like, "What did you see? Come talk to me."

Mm-hmm. And it's like, because when you're a kid, you feel like you're gonna, you're gonna get in trouble. Mm-hmm. Like, you were, like, walking around crying. Like, that's how I felt in fifth grade. That's how s- that's still how it is. Like, kids don't feel comfortable to talk to adults- Mm-hmm.

Right ... still to this day. Right. So it's like, even now with some of us, like, find more comfort in talking to a teacher or a coach more than our counselors. Yeah. 'Cause I feel like now some people just don't- And I would encourage you guys to do that. Um, because you, you're, you're having to, you're processing a lot of stuff that is just unprocess able.

Um, and there's no way... The only thing, you know, the question is how do we protect kids from that, so they hold onto their innocence a little bit longer? Um, because lack of-- Losing your innocence early can't be a great thing. I don't know what it leads to, but- Nothing. And I think it- It's okay. When you-- If you're trying to fix that from a legal standpoint, I think you have to force algorithms to change.

The way social media algorithms work, you have to force that to change, and you also have to force how the resources available, as in, I was... This is more in terms of like, um, how she was talking about how she doesn't feel comfortable talking to our counselors. I think one of the biggest things lawmakers and like, uh, the, the people upstairs can do is promote funding and promote accessibility for therapy and promote going to counseling and therapy to everyone, whether you feel like you're struggling or not.

Everyone needs a objectively safe outlet to talk to an adult, 'cause we don't... None of us went to our parents. But when I was, when I was y'all's age, pornography was very strictly regulated. Mm-hmm. Um, I mean, like you couldn't... It was behind, it was like on gas station magazine racks where it was, uh, it was, you didn't even see the covers.

It was in like a paper bag, and you had to be a certain age to get it. You know? And like, it was just, it was basically illegal. Oh. Um, would y'all, would anybody be in favor of just like saying like, "That is illegal content"? Mm-hmm. And I mean, pornographers were being taken to jail when I was in high school.

I think they should be. Or taken to court, not to jail. Of course. But they were being like fined and like... And then the internet happened and, and GoFundMe and- Like now it's like something that's like normalized, like that's your job, and that's, you know, information and be like- It's incredibly normalized, right?

Mm-hmm. And it's on TV and all these shows and everything. Like you shouldn't shame, you shouldn't shame them 'cause that's their job and- But it's not right ... but I mean, like, at the end of the day, it's affecting children too. And it's literally normalized in this- Mm-hmm. But it's also like, they're not, they're not doing it for children.

Like- They are ... it's just, it's being shown for children. Every- It's being spread again ... I would like to argue that every, if you work in the porn industry today, if you are a, at least under the age of like 50 and you work in the porn industry today, you are fully aware of the 14, 15, 16-year-old boys watching the content you are making.

You can say they aren't making it for children. They know 14, 15, 16-year-olds are watching it 'cause the boys in it were 14, 15, 16-year-olds watching porn. Interesting. And at the same time-

Yeah, so I, yeah, I think pornography needs to be way heavier legislated ... everybody has to have a job. Um, like- You don't know what sex is ... people find ways to find, to have a job. Money. Like, you have to have a job. Yeah, at this, you have to have a job in our generation. You do. Like, everything is so expensive.

Like, oh my gosh, I just saw on the news that, or, or it was TikTok. What do you watch? I don't know if it was news or TikTok. But it was basically about like how a certain percentage of young adults feel at a certain, like they won't be able to afford a house in like their lifetime. Mm-hmm. They don't feel like they'll be able to make enough money-

because everything is just so expensive now in our generation. Everything's very expensive. We're screwed right now. Because the standards are so high. Yeah, our, exactly. So, so high. The standards are like insanely high. Yeah. True. For houses. For our generation especially. We're, we're- Home improvement shows maybe.

I don't know what it is, but yeah, you can't. We're, uh- It's like everybody wants the biggest house or like a good house, like with big windows and a big yard and- That's, I feel like that's one of the main problems we have, like, for

like ever is like a status thing, like- Mm-hmm. And everyone, like I feel like it's harder for teens to get like, not like real jobs.

And like you have some- Mm-hmm ... older people working like at McDonald's. I mean- I've seen that ... you see a couple of teens, but like at the register when someone's taking your order, it's probably someone you think should have a- Should have a- ... a, a real job ... a real job. And that's- They're, they're teenagers.

They used to be teenagers. Yeah. Yeah. Now you see people- And adults working in places like McDonald's, like you said, is a direct effect of... I don't, like I don't know if I'm preaching to the choir and if you guys are like, I'm just talking. But I um, we are entering like one of the most uncertain and difficult job markets to break into, like ever in America.

Like it's v- there are so many degrees that were once computer... Anyone, uh, anyone here that wants to go into computer science, good luck. Yeah. You're going to get that degree and work in a Domino's for 15 years. Yeah. Even the- It's a degree ... degrees- Like my brother is actually majoring in something like computer science.

Um- It's terrifying

My brother's going to graduate school for computer science, and he has to, he's majoring in, like, AI and all that stuff. It's like, he's trying to find ways to make AI or like... I don't know. But that's just what computer science is about. AI is its own separate issue. Yeah. But like- There's nothing else ... like how much AI can truly make us better.

And even more than that, the people, the people developing AI, those AIs being developed are the ones taking these computer science jobs. Yeah. The first thing, the very first thing AI got really good at was writing code. Yeah. Okay. I, can I just read here 'cause we're, we're running out of time? Um, 'cause I was wanting to hear something that would make, um, me better at, at, at, at being a teacher- Mm-hmm

uh, in school. And, uh, one thing we have not talked on is, like, just how school works that makes kids stress out. Numbers. So, I think that, like, back in the day, adults didn't even care about, like, the ACT and this. Like, our parents had, like, 20s and this and that. Now you have to get, like, a 32 to a 35 to even get into the college.

It's, like, so much stress on you. You're like, "Oh, you have to be this good. You have to have these grades, or you're not gonna go anywhere in life. You have to go to college. You have to get these grades to get into the college." You don't even know of scholarships or anything. Excuse me, Mr. Taylor. Yes, ma'am.

Can I please see Langston for a second? Yes, ma'am. Thank you. But it's just like you have to get these scholarships to even go to college 'cause some people, like, it's so expensive to go to college. \$90,000 income family and you have to pay \$60,000 per semester, like, that's just unreasonable. They don't give enough scholarships to people.

Like, it's just the economy once again. Because you're not good- Okay. So, th- that's our, schools respond to that, right? So it's not, doesn't start with schools. Yeah. It starts with something economic or public universities aren't so public anymore. Yeah. Yes. All right. Go ahead. Just because you're not good at a standardized test that's timed- Mm-hmm

and everyone... I don't know. Like, it's about- Excuse me, Mr. Taylor. I also need to see Ava Albert. Yes, ma'am. Thank you. For sure. Mm-hmm. Yeah, probably. Um, unless- I hope it's not ... it has, it's like- It's all so personalized ... you could be smart, but you have to have experience and, like, common sense- Yes ... to have jobs.

Mm-hmm. Things- The main, the main thing with, uh, like the whole, like, ACT and, like, standardized testing, like some colleges-

SAT score. Like community But what also sucks about that is, like, in, same thing with in high school, like everything's based off of a grade scale. Like you, you can't get certain things if you don't make certain grades. Mm-hmm. You, like, it's just like everything's so, like- And there are some things you just can't grade like that.

Like I think you talked about, this is ano- this is something I think you do really well, Mr. Thames. Um, you- Please ... you were talking about Make sure it's on. You talked about, like, common sense and experience in terms of job

market. You ca- common sense is something only you... Common sense and decision-making skills, I keep talking about decision-making skills, but is something you can only teach yourself.

And you can only teach yourself problem-solving abilities in situations like this. All right. So what, what, I, sorry, I hate to cut, but we're about to run out of time. Harrison, I think you're the only one in there that hasn't spoken. Can you, um, can you, uh, tell us what you're thinking in there? Uh, homework

is pretty shitty as well. Yes. Last one. One homework a week each teacher. I was thinking about how it was at that-

Okay. I think social media- Yeah, homework should not do it ... I think social media also helps with experience. Get rid of all that and- And I know, like- Yeah ... I don't know, losing my innocence, whatever. I don't know. But like as a young age, like matured me. And like- Yeah ... I like expect more and my standards are high.

Is that for Eva? And I don't- She just wrote it ... like I don't wanna go through- What is that? Like I've matured- Chalk ... so I'm expecting more. You lived through it, you're stronger, you're better. Like social media just helps out. Like you, you research and all that

stuff, like- Yeah ... ah, there's just bad things out there. And Carly, I'll, uh, I'm gonna... I don't want you to go. Like please put this chair back. Great job, you guys. It's bad, ain't it? It's social media. Mrs. Harris. We are arguing about- Do you want any, do you want any of this? Yeah, give me your papers. Okay. You can get all the papers, Mr.

Mack. Yeah, actually give me the rest of them. I'm taking this chair.

Do you want more paper? Yeah, just turn in all your notes.