

FPlus Submission - Adult Privilege
submitted by Cheapskate

Children and adults do not have the same rights. According to Tumblr, that is the vilest form of oppression known to man. This (short) submission covers two social justice blogs that fight the good fight on behalf of teenagers everywhere.

1. Selections from “An Adult Once Told Me” (an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com)

a. Wikipedia

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/60700975439/an-adult-once-told-me-that-i-couldnt-use>

An adult once told me that I couldn't use wikipedia for school research, he agreed that it was a good resource and the articles gave more detail but I was kept back after class so he (the teaching assistant) and my history teacher could patronisingly tell me how the words were too long for me to understand and that I didn't need to know the details. They were both at least 2 ft taller than me at the time, were stood as to block the door and wouldn't let me go for lunch until I agreed not to use it for homework.

(submitted anonymously)

b. Oppression against Second Graders

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/60973895146/an-adult-once-told-me-i-was-lying-w-hen-i-wasnt>

An adult once told me I was lying when I wasn't and then punished me. When I was in 2nd grade, my circle of friends went through a period of two or three weeks where we didn't bring our bulky northern winter coats to lunch with us, but instead went to retrieve them from our lockers fifty feet away between lunch and recess. One day I was about ten feet behind my friends while retrieving my coat, and an adult lunch “aide” stopped me while my friends continued on to recess. The aide asked me what I was doing, and when I told her that we'd been getting our coats between lunch and recess and that I didn't know there was a rule against it, she told me I was lying and put me on time out at a desk in the hall with my face to the wall. I sat there through recess and past recess while the same adult forgot I existed; finally a different “aide” noticed me and wondered what I was doing there. The second aide allowed that I “probably just forgot” about the rule I'd never known existed which stipulated that students can't go to their lockers between lunch and recess, and finally let me return to my class.

(submitted anonymously)

c. Teenage Defects

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/60588249497/a-teacher-of-mine-once-referred-to-his-students>

A teacher of mine once referred to his students' tendency to gravitate toward the door during the last minutes of class as a "teenage defect".

(submitted by [the-fault-in-your-pants](#))

d. Bedtime

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/60218061192/an-adult-once-told-me-that-they-knew-better-about>

An adult once told me that they knew better about my bodily autonomy than I do and that they were entitled to restrict it, I KNOW how much sleep I need and now they're trying to dictate when I'm even allowed to be concious

(submitted by anonymous)

e. Broccoli

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/60021379366/so-we-were-having-a-family-meal-and-everyone-was>

So we were having a family meal and everyone was having a good time and after we'd all finished eating i had left some on my plate, it was just some sides that i didn't like, mainly broccoli and carrots. My mother questioned me on why i didn't eat it all and i simply said i didn't like it, well this turned into a scene with my mother repeating the line you're a growing boy you need to eat it. However when i pointed out that her and my uncle had left similar amounts i was completely dismissed "you can make you're own decisions when you're an adult." I was completely outraged but ate it anyway to shut her up. So the message i got was adults got free choice while children get broccoli.

(submitted by [patriachyandfriends](#))

f. Bedtime II

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/59911216523/i-once-had-an-adult-tell-me-that-i-had-to-go-to-bed>

I once had an adult tell me that I had to go to bed. When I said I wasn't tired he forced me into my room and wouldn't let me turn the light on. I was so scared I didn't sleep at all that night.

(submitted by anonymous)

g. A Troll Appears

<http://an-adult-once-told-me.tumblr.com/post/59701317426/adultism-seriously-im-also-pissed-that-adults-rarely>

Adultism? Seriously? I'm also pissed that adults rarely take me seriously but thats all going to change when I'm also an adult and then I can understand that teens and kids really do look small and dumb in adults eyes. It's a fact that they're more mature than us and know better.

Please don't make up words with "ism" at the end for everything that bugs you a bit. There are way more important things in this world.



Anonymous

I'll ignore most trolls, but this ask is well thought-out, and it gives me an opportunity to explore some adultist attitudes you've internalized.

Adultism is temporary, therefore it isn't real oppression: Wow, the systematic dehumanization of youth and trivialization of their problems only lasts for *two decades*?! What a wonderful world! Seriously though, ask yourself: Would you say the same if adultism lasted for thirty years? Thirty-five? Forty? Would "*But it's temporary!*" work then? If not, why does it apply to two decades but not four?

"I can understand that teens and kids really do look small and dumb in adults' eyes. It's a fact that they're more mature than us and know better." Yeah, no.

While adults generally do have more ~life experience~, that does *not* make youth inferior. Even in situations where a particular young person *does* have more experience, they're often dismissed. That is so, fundamentally, *wrong*.

If you want to continue this conversation, please do so at [personal blog](#). (Also, avoid the word *d*mb*. [Words related to "intelligence" are ableist](#).)

The rest of this response goes out to the other anons who are denying adultism. Generally the asks went, "Quit whining! There are *real* problems in the world!"

Damn right there are. Don't you just hate sexism? How [teenage girls face a host of problems](#) that are related to their age *and* gender? Don't you just hate transphobia and homophobia? And [all the challenges faced by LGBT*Q+ youth](#)?

Key word: **intersectionality**. For every -ism, there are youth who put up with intersecting oppression. No one can dismantle the kyriarchy without tackling ageism.

-TFIYP

2. Selections from Adult Privilege (adultprivilege.tumblr.com)

a. *Picky Eater*

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/60845394271/adult-privilege-is-being-allowed-to-choose-what>
[at](#)

Adult privilege is being allowed to choose what you eat. (This also intersects with thin privilege.) My dad recently decided that I "needed" to lose weight and has banned all foods that are not meat, fruits, or vegetables from our house. I am an extremely picky eater, and nearly every single food that I'm willing to eat is included in this ban. Attempts to eat what's left in the house have ended with extreme nausea/heartburn/other digestive problems, so I've been forced to live on one meal a day (lunch at school).

While my parents are still able to eat meals out whenever they want to (something they do increasingly often), any food I buy with my own money is immediately taken from me and thrown

out without my permission.

b. Dodging the Question

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/60835236609/what-age-do-you-think-children-should-have-equal-rights>

scpjah asked

what age do you think children should have equal rights as parents?

Everyone should have equal rights.

This does not mean that everyone should be treated as if they were exactly the same, because some people have needs that others don't.

Youth rights is not just about parents, because other adults have power over young people too.

c. Conversational Privilege

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/60187218005/adult-privilege-is-the-power-to-choose-when-your>

Adult privilege is the power to choose when your conversations with children end. You can force children to carry out conversations they'd rather avoid, but as soon as a conversation makes *you* uncomfortable, it ends immediately.

d. Petty Theft

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/60168959258/adult-privilege-is-having-the-option-to-report>

Adult privilege is having the option to report crimes like theft or abuse, and have the perpetrator punished properly.

I cannot even count how many items of mine were stolen or damaged at school by other kids. I was beaten several times, sometimes they injured me so much I bled.

Now, imagine that this was done to you, and when you report it, all you get is a "Play well next time, kids, or you will have to stand in the corner!!"

If a crime committed against an adult was ignored like this, it would be outrageous.

When it's a child, it's completely okay, because they are just playing!

e. Washing Machines

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/59276632175/i-hate-the-whirlpool-washing-machine-commercial>

I HATE the Whirlpool washing machine commercial

The commercial goes like this: a teenage girl's mom washes her jeans because they were unclean and the surprised teenage girl goes on a rant about how "they won't look new" and "they'll shrink" and when the mom explains that they look brand new, the teenage girl continues to complain.

I don't know any teenager who does this. The commercial is also implying that the mom forced her way into her daughter's room without permission and took her article of clothing (which would most likely be in a dresser drawer). I like my clothes to look nice, but the commercial portrays teenage girls as over-emotional and unreasonable. It's basically saying that teenagers overreact to little things and that it's just ignore-able "teenage drama."

A better way would be to have the teenage girl say: "But mom! The laundry machine ripped apart and faded my last jeans. That's why I've been afraid to wash them." Then the mom would explain that they have *insert product here* and that they were good as new. Finally, the teenage girl would understand.

f. No Beer for You

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/59117465932/adult-privilege-is-using-the-i-bought-it-myself>

Adult privilege is using the "I bought it myself" excuse to justify your sense of personal entitlement to items that should be shared equitably among your family, completely ignoring that young people CAN'T earn and spend money the way adults do.

Mod Note: Not to mention that, when young people actually *do* manage to buy certain items with their own money, there is still no guarantee that their parents can't take those items away.

g. Pronoun Trouble

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/57340704520/adult-privilege-is-the-fact-that-in-most-languages>

Adult privilege is...the fact that in most languages that distinguish between an informal and formal pronoun*, children (along with animals and objects) are systematically addressed by adults with the informal pronoun, meanwhile most adults expect to be addressed by children

with the formal pronoun only.

Adult privilege is the fact that some institutions have actual punishments in place for children who fail to follow this expectation.

Adult privilege is the fact that even among the minority of adults who prefer mutual informal pronoun usage, they still hold the power to opt for egalitarian language with children.

Adult privilege is the “but children are not the equals of adults!” mentality that governs this imbalanced pronoun usage across many languages and cultures.

Why are children not deserving of the same courtesies as adults?

*You can do a Wikipedia search of “T-V distinction” for a more in-depth understanding of this topic.

e. Intersectionality

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/56547647239/jesus-christ-this-blog-is-pathetic-boo-hoo-you>
[r](#)

unruly-beast asked

Jesus Christ this blog is pathetic. Boo hoo your parent's treat you like children. Consider yourself lucky this is your only grievance and they're not beating your privileged little heads in the way children who ACTUALLY have it rough are subjected to

1. Why do you assume that someone's privileged when you know nothing about them?
2. Many parents do not just have adult privilege over their kids. They can also have male, cis-het, and neurotypical.
3. Many people in the youth rights movement have been physically assaulted by their parents. It's not as rare as you think.
4. No one should have to accept the way they're treated just because it could be worse. Hitting is not the only way to abuse someone.
5. When parents who beat their kids are supported by most of society, that's evidence that young people are oppressed.

f. Nicknames

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/56465983119/adult-privilege-is-not-being-forced-to-give-up>

Adult privilege is not being forced to give up your own name to an adult simply because they're older than you.

I was in rehearsals for a play that I was acting in and one of the actors dropped out of the show after the first few rehearsals, so the director brought in a new replacement actor who happened

to have the same first name as me. The director decided that it'd get confusing for her to call us both by our real names, so because the other actor was a few years older than me (he was in about his mid to late 20s, I was 19), the director (who was in her 50s) decided to start calling me 'Junior'. She decided this despite the fact that we were already a few rehearsals in and everyone else already knew me and were calling me by my real name. Also, I had been doing community theater for the past eight years and had worked with most of the other people in the cast before who already knew me by my real name for many years, whereas this was the other actor's first show. Being called that was the most humiliating thing I had ever experienced in all my years of community theater. The director ignored my multiple requests to be called by my real name because it was "just too inconvenient" for her, even though it was very clear how much emotional distress being called 'Junior' was causing me. It took the intervention of one of the older adult actors to finally get her to stop calling me 'Junior', but she never did start calling me by my real name, she just began calling me by a less humiliating nickname.

g. No Comment

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/56218730839/adult-privilege-is-people-being-more-likely-to>

Adult privilege is people being more likely to listen to what I have to say on adult privilege, because I myself am an adult - rather than if a minor was to say the exact same thing. Of course, this can also apply to pretty much any other privilege.

h. Piano

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/56218029681/adult-privilege-is-being-free-to-choose-your-own>

Adult privilege is being free to choose your own interests and passions, rather than having your parents decide what your interests and passions should be. For example: Forcing your child to take piano lessons, when xe would rather play tennis.

i. Avenged Sevenfold

<http://adultprivilege.tumblr.com/post/52412150885/bgm658-feministrocker-bgm658>

[bgm658](#):

[feministrocker:](#)

[bgm658:](#)

[foreverunbound99:](#)

A lot of people call Avenged Sevenfold "satanic" and those people know nothing about the band unlike we fans do. I hate seeing comments say how they "worship satan" yet the band name comes from the bible along with some of the lyrics. If you want to criticize someone or something learn a little about before you do.

OMG, yes, yesterday my aunt threw away all of my A7X albums and dvd's because I was adoring satan.. I just really hate that because they're fucking stupid and ignorant, they ruined my whole week

YOUR AUNT IS A FUCKING ASSTWIT!! SHE SHOULD BE MADE TO PAY FOR ALL YOUR CDS THAT SHE THREW AWAY!!

She won't pay shit, and anybody will make her pay because my dad's family is obsessed with Catholicism, they're ridiculously stupid, without any arguments they start insulting me and Avenged Sevenfold, just by looking at the album artwork, they even wanted to exorcise my Avenged Sevenfold's CD's and DVD's, ignorant fucktards, it's fucking embarrassing
Adult privilege is being able to listen to your favourite kind of music without having it be confiscated by other members of your family. If anyone was to confiscate it, it's be considered "theft" - and the police would get involved.