

Required Perfections

Everybody's personalities are shaped by their experiences and surroundings. This generation in particular is subject to certain surroundings and environments that they can't control, and are largely affected by them. Being a sixteen year old girl, I feel as though I am strongly influenced by the media. Constantly, teenage girls are forced into this idea that they need to achieve perfection. Through the media we are advised to be faultless, flawless, and picture perfect. They create this idea that perfection is required, but we are constantly conveyed as imperfect individuals that can be improved. The media has taught us to look at ourselves in way that we almost seek and search for our flaws, because there is always an acne cream, moisturizer, conditioner, or makeup that can help us conceal our imperfections. After all, it sells.

And perhaps the worst part is that it is inescapable. Everywhere we turn the idea of a beautiful, perfect, and most likely airbrushed and enhanced woman is planted in our minds. Television, magazines, billboards – the images are seemingly unavoidable. What girls need to realize is that perfection is in the eye of the beholder, and in actuality, impossible. We need to learn to accept and even welcome what the media considers to be “flaws,” because in spite of everything, they are what construct our individuality.