

Individuality Empowers All

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A life that is worth living is one that is both unique and purposeful to the individual. With the rise of social media in our everyday lives, it has become more and more difficult for people to truly live for themselves. It is human nature to compare ourselves to what we see as we scroll, and consequently, many people seek validation by morphing themselves into a mold that is not completely true to their character. Toni Morrison's question poses an important message to the modern world, as she stressed the value of individuality.

Even before the presence of technology, people were afraid to express their differences because of our primal instinct that causes us to be fearful of the unfamiliar. Morrison understood that this fear fosters assimilation and continues to rob people of opportunities for fulfillment. Her question encourages readers to go beyond any worries of judgment and express the qualities that make them special. Oftentimes, what we consider to be an insecurity or quirk is exactly what sets us apart from others. Once we step out of our comfort zone, we find the greatest success, as it grants us the ability to "make up" the world according to our own dictates. I support Morrison's suggestion that we must utilize our unique qualities to develop a meaningful life. If a person lacks the confidence or the imagination to pursue their passions then they are simply allowing external forces to shape their fate. This passive way of life will inevitably limit their happiness and their contribution to the community.

Expressing our interests is not only beneficial to the individual, but to society as a whole because it curates an environment that supports genuine fulfillment. Self-expression is a privilege that allows us to do things that enhance our life experience such as dress the way we like. For example, Morrison might argue that fashion freedom is crucial because, what good would it be to wear clothes if we are unable to personalize it to our liking? This concept goes much further than matters of external appearance, as individuality in all aspects strengthens our society. We are better neighbors and friends to each other when we feel as if we possess a

specific identity and purpose. Furthermore, our bonds become much deeper when we uplift each other for following special goals and desires. This culture of individuality allows us to better serve the community as well, because it empowers people to employ their talents and skills to advance our society. In turn, this creates a world that is rich in diversity and beneficial to all.

Toni Morrison saw individuality in its true form. It is not a harmful nor polarizing value, but one that secures opportunities for contentment and community. When we proudly display our distinctive characteristics, we serve our individual purpose and bring forth personal and communal benefits. The world would be a dreadful place if we were confined to the aspirations of others and therefore, it is necessary to tap into our inner thoughts to find success, peace, and purpose.