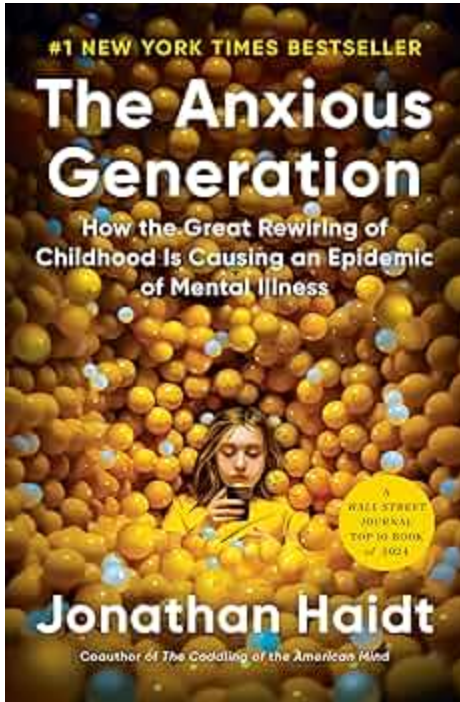


Summer Reading Assignment 12CP

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Directions: During the summer break, you are to read ***The Anxious Generation*** by Jonathan Haidt. Please note: **you do not need to submit these questions**; they are merely guiding you through the reading. Upon our return to school, we will have a writing assignment pertaining to this novel, along with an assessment.

Haidt's Central Argument

1. What is Haidt's main claim in this book? Do you find it convincing?
2. Haidt argues that the shift from a play-based childhood to a phone-based childhood is the root cause of the mental health crisis among teenagers. What evidence does he use to support this, and how strong do you find that evidence?
3. Who is Haidt writing this book for? How does his awareness of his audience shape the way he presents his argument?
4. By the end of the book, has Haidt changed the way you think about your own relationship with technology? Why or why not?

Evidence and Reasoning

1. Haidt relies heavily on data and statistics throughout the book. Find an example where the data felt genuinely convincing and one where you wanted more proof. What made the difference?
2. Where in the book does Haidt anticipate counterarguments? How effectively does he address them?
3. Haidt uses both research and personal stories to build his case. Which type of evidence did you find more persuasive, and what does your answer reveal about how you respond to arguments?
4. Are there places where you think Haidt oversimplifies or leaves something important out? What would you add to his argument?

Technology and Adolescent Life

1. Haidt argues that social media affects girls and boys differently. Do you agree based on your own observations? What does he say about why?
2. How does Haidt define a healthy childhood? Do you think his definition holds up across different backgrounds, communities, and economic situations?
3. Haidt is critical of smartphones but not of technology broadly. Where does he draw that line, and do you think it is a fair distinction?
4. He argues that parents, schools, and tech companies all share responsibility for the current situation. Which group do you think bears the most responsibility, and why?

Personal Response and Application

1. Which part of the book felt most personally relevant to your own experience growing up? Which felt least accurate or relatable?
2. Haidt makes specific recommendations at the end of the book. Which do you think are realistic and which are not? What would actually need to change for his solutions to work?
3. This book was written by an adult about teenagers. How does that shape the argument? What might be different if a teenager had written it?
4. After reading this book, what is one question you still have that Haidt does not fully answer?

Rhetoric and Style

1. How would you describe Haidt's tone throughout the book? Does it ever shift, and if so, where and why?
2. Haidt is a social scientist writing for a general audience. How does he make complex research accessible without losing credibility?
3. The title *The Anxious Generation* makes a strong claim before the reader even opens the book. How does the title function as a rhetorical choice?
4. If you were going to write a response to this book, what would your central argument be?