

Think Critically Challenge

By Payton Simonson

If you are a teenager, you are likely more than aware of internet challenges, and have probably participated in at least one. I know I have. From the genuinely positive ALS ice-bucket challenge to the more dangerous Tide Pod challenge, teenagers seem



to invent even more dumb ways to get attention daily. However, on the behalf of Generation Z, I argue that literally no one is endangering their lives for internet attention and that warnings are only issued to scare parents.

Have you heard of the porcelain challenge? It encourages kids to grind up porcelain dishes into a powder and snort it for internet clout. This recent trend resulted in a child snorting their grandparents' urn which hospitalized them. This act had been posted on Tiktok and was quickly removed for graphic content. You believe that, right? I mean, I just told it to you, and if I say it happened online, then it must be true, right? You know what I'm getting at. This challenge was originated on Tiktok by the creator Childprogeny, who deliberately wanted to spread a misinformation hashtag to see how quickly news outlets and parents are deceived by imaginary online threats to children. He was banned for spreading misinformation, but, as seen by the multiple news outlets covering his fake trend, many people were fooled into believing this was a real epidemic endangering youth. So, if this trend was portrayed as a real threat to kids, how many other trends are just as easily faked?

I was enraged when I heard a news radio station discussing Nyquill Chicken, which is what the name implies. I know none of you are doing that, because do you know how much chicken is at Kroger? How much Nyquill is? You'd have to take a second mortgage out on your house to be granted the privilege of having either item in your home; just to render both unusable for a 10 second clip on your Snapchat story? It's been done by one so the rest may laugh, but I urge everyone to believe that no one is making it, let alone consuming it.

I admit, there are some challenges that were real and definitely not the smartest. For instance, the Cinnamon Challenge, where the participant eats a spoonful of cinnamon and could pose harm to their lungs, the Bean Boozled Challenge, where one eats a jellybean which could either be a normal flavor or something like grass clippings and would promptly vomit, and Chubby Bunny, which has people shoving as many marshmallows in their mouth as they could while still attempting to say the phrase "Chubby Bunny," which was definitely a choking hazard, were all popular and performed by many kids. However, everyone who did attempt these challenges ended up alive and well. No one is really performing the really dangerous stunts such as planking in the road or setting themselves on fire, so if they're just eating hot chips or erasing their arms, who really cares?