



“Why are suicide rates in college students rising?”

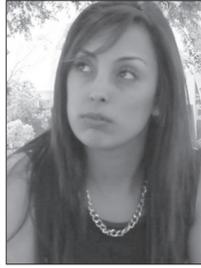
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KARA KIMORA
Psychology major

“There is a lot of people who are pressured to do well in school and when they don't they feel like they're failing themselves.”



JENNIFER AGUILAR
Psychology major

“Damn, I honestly didn't know it was rising.”



ROSA TRAJIO
English major

“I think it has to do a lot with the cost of college or just the pressure that not only parents put on you but everyone around you.”



ALBA JIMENEZ
Criminal Justice major

“I guess family issues or too much pressure from school sometimes.”



GEORGE GARCIA
Business major

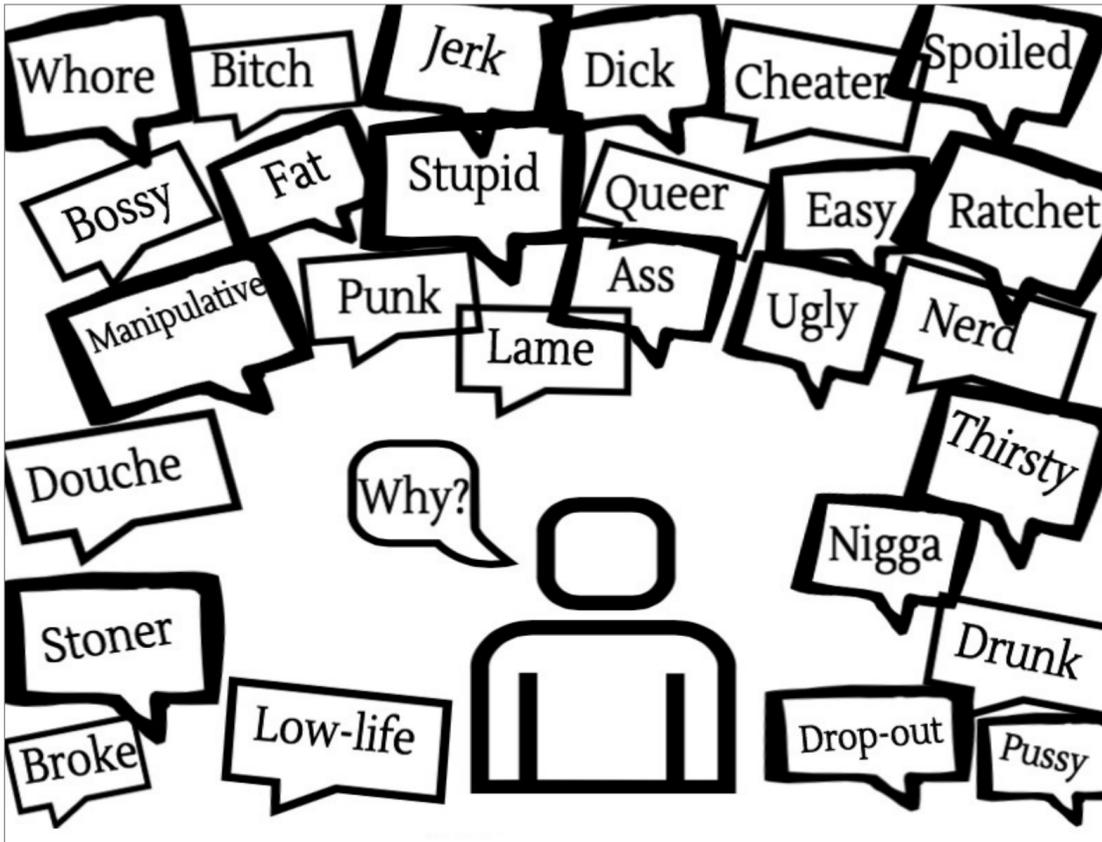
“If a college student can't find his way out with no support from his family, life might be hard for them.”



JONATHAN TALVEVAE
Business major

“There is no place for students and even when they come to school they're in financial need.”

•EDITORIAL•



ALEXANDRA SCOVILLE/TM

The context is the real venom

Offensive? Probably. There are people reading the very words on this page and cringing at the very thought of seeing the word dick thrown around so blatantly.

People say these things to one another with the intent of malice and harm. Words can carry a lot of gravity. In the midst of anger one can spout some pretty hurtful things. Heck, maybe you mean it.

Regardless, the point is, it's always what is meant, the emotional backing behind what is said, that ultimately matters when one says such negatively connotated words like nigga or pussy. It's the intent behind the words, not just the words itself.

“Ban Bossy” argues a certain premise when it comes to words and what it means for not only an individual, but society in the big scheme of things.

It argues that “words like bossy send a message: don't raise your hand or speak up.”

The reasoning behind this is that boys at a young age are supposedly taught to be assertive and embrace leadership roles, but that the reverse is true for girls and that it's frowned upon.

Therefore, girls who develop these “masculine” tendencies will not be seen as leaders, but

rather as “bossy,” or not up to par with what society envisions or expects from them.

But is it the term “bossy” that conveys this, or is the norm that people have placed upon these young girls?

Words like bossy don't reflect this ideal, it's just the ideal itself that conveys this perception. Bossy is just a word. Bossy doesn't scream out those condescending judgments toward women, again, it's just a word.

So when “Ban Bossy” presents this case, it shouldn't ban bossy, it should attempt or yearn to ban the misconceptions that are placed on girls with leadership or assertive qualities.

If things are heard in passing, such as someone calling someone out as a douchebag in a seemingness harmless manner, then it doesn't mean anything.

Some people are sensitive toward words. It's best to recognize that looking at and rationalizing where the words stem from and how what could have been something that is seen in a negative context, really might not sound so bad after all.

Again, what ticks you, what gets to you is your deal. Not everybody is accepting of these words being a type of norm, but it's reality.

People call each other asses everyday, but the aforementioned words in this article, and words heard in public passing mean absolutely nothing if not put to heart.

See, because there's no meaning behind any of it. Those “negative” words have as much meaning behind them as the hair behind your hand.

Obviously if the person next to you calls you an asshole and decks you in the face. Well, he probably means it. And, well, depending what you did, he or she could be justified in doing so.

Now, this doesn't give you the liberty to call people names and say “oh, yeah, man, totally didn't mean it.”

Yeah, you're probably an asshole if you are that person. See, asshole means something in this regard. Catching on, eh?

Always remember when you catch a whiff of these words in the public realm, stand back. Analyze it. What's it mean? Is there true emotion behind the word or is it just silly banter that is spewing out of a person's mouth.

Figure out the intent, recognize where the other individual is coming from and let that be your undisputed weapon.



Carlos Holguin
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Rise in suicide rates means a call for help

A few weeks ago, my life came to a halt when I got a phone call halfway through my day. I stopped typing up an essay for a class and decided that some things are worth more than a good grade.

A friend of mine had attempted suicide. The stress from school and life was a bit too much for them to handle.

This is a bright, young individual who I know is better than a few bad marks on a sheet of paper. They were not the problem. The problem was that college life had implanted the idea that anything less than perfection isn't good enough. It breaks my heart to know that they think their best isn't good enough.

We have all been to the library during finals week and have seen the results. Students putting excruciating detail and effort into studying for a test or essay so then can get a step closer to transferring to a university sleep deprived students who are stressed out about the thought that they might not pass.

The pursuit of higher education that, according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, is killing students “at a rate between 6.5 and 7.5 per 100,000 among college students, approximately half the rate for nonstudent college-aged adults.” (<http://bit.ly/1pQWIEZ>)

Students are afraid of what the people close to them will think if they fail. How our parents and relatives might be disappointed in them if they don't graduate, or how it's now harder to get a job without a college degree (<http://exm.nr/1ee2O1f>).

Dropping the class won't solve the problem either. Too many dropped classes and the college might make you pay them back for the lost financial aid, adding to student's stress levels. The monetary cost might also be too much for the students to handle.

And our lives and problems are not limited to just this school. Work adds a new category to balance. Some students might have to skip class for the day, missing important information, and work a shift instead.

No degree or class is worth your life. Every single student on this campus is worth more than any grade. Taking your own life does not solve your problem, but instead leaves the loved ones in your life to face the world without you.

That being said, you are the victim here, not the source of the problem. No one should blame you for your attempt. Desperation and pressure makes suicide seem like a way out of a horrible situation. Anyone who tells you your attempt was a grab for attention or idiotic is not going to help you.

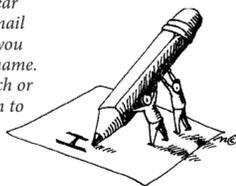
Do not be ashamed to ask for help from the right people. The anxiety may seem like it prevents you from moving forward, but you'll find plenty of people, even ones you don't know, are willing to drop everything to help you.

We even have a club here on campus dedicated to helping students in this situation, the Active Minds Club. Students should not hesitate to find the club for question and help.

Help is everywhere around you, I can't emphasize that enough. From absolute strangers to trusted friends and family, there is help. You can even come in and talk to me if you have no one else. I will go out of my way to make sure I can help you.

If you don't feel like talking to someone in person, you can always call the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text a professional online at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>. They are always ready to help someone in need.

Did one of us write something that ground your gears? Do you want to congratulate us on the great job we're doing? Whatever the case may be, we would love to hear from you, our readers. Send a **LETTER to the EDITOR**. We accept electronic mail at editor@talonmarks.com and boring regular mail at our office in FA-42. If you want your letter or e-mail to be printed, you must proudly sign it with your real name. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. This means we don't want any hate speech or conspiracy theories (unless they're hilarious). We only edit your letters for length to print them, but they appear in full online. If the subject of your letter is campus-related, then it will be given priority.



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