

## Kobe's Gym Rats and Angela's Grit

**Executive Summary.** The "older" generation currently in executive management across the working world yearns for the good ol' days when it was a simpler time: work hard, put in the time, and climb the ladder. They (which now is really *me*, I'm 52 years old now) still want it that way, and believe me, they're trying to adapt (I'll prove my ability to adapt by not using two spaces after the period any more in this article). Below expresses a generation's turmoil and a generation's wish for the immediate future.



**This is the most difficult to write.** I'm saying what is on the mind of many of my peers – most my age and older, not all. This is, by far, one of the most difficult articles I've written. How to say what's on *my* mind, *our* minds, but not to offend. Here we go.

**I'm trying not to be my father.** The reality of life is that we all, to a certain degree, become our parents. I'm trying hard not to give the whole "I used to walk ten miles in the snow to school" thing. But...

**A window into our brain.** All older generations tend to think the younger generation is all screwed up in their approach – we can all see grandpa saying "this country's goin' to hell in a handbasket", right?!

My generation grew up in the 80s which was Cyndi Lauper and Madonna and the like. This pop culture, and the introduction of music videos on MTV, likely was viewed by my parents as a generation lost in unimportant things. Today's generation is hypnotized by social media – I guess it's the same now as then, but different.

**Work well is necessary.** Work should be a priority. To do it well means to do it right. To do it well results in maximizing your living experience, and your contribution to your community. It provides for your lifestyle (which requires money) through compensation. It can provide for your health coverage. And it can actually satisfy you personally when you find something you love, or at least like a lot. It gives a sense of purpose which adds value to a human's time on earth.

**My story.** My story here is told through others' observations. And they're just a QR code scan away for you.



Our youth starts in primary and secondary schools. Teachers and students are acknowledging that students can be held to higher standards there:



"The student member of the Board of Education, Richard Montgomery senior Sami Saeed, told MoCo360 he's interested in reevaluating the policy with the school board this coming year to any extent possible. He said he's spoken with numerous fellow MCPS high schoolers who agree that **even though the policy makes school easier, it's not in students' best interest.**" *Em Espey, Moco360*

Once out of high school, off kids go to college, where Sylvester Stallone (from the *Rocky* movies) talks about what college really is:



"You think anyone really gives a shit about what your major is? English, literature, biology, whatever? The **whole point of a college degree is to show a potential employer that you showed up someplace four years in a row, completed a series of tasks, reasonably well, and on time,** so if he hires you there's a semi-decent chance that you'll show up there every day and not fuck his business up." *Sylvester Stallone, Paramount Plus*



On to Ms. Angela Duckworth who talks about the value of effort and hard work – not even grades! Again, just work hard!

"It was grit. Grit is passion and perseverance for very long term goals. Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working really hard to make that future a reality. **Grit is living life like it's a marathon, not a sprint.**" *Angela Lee Duckworth, TEDTalks*

And finally, one of basketball's goats, Mr. Kobe Bryant. Simply replace "gym" with "office" to learn about what a work ethic really is:



"If I gotta fight to get you in the gym, that's a problem. That's a problem. You want players that are gym rats. Players that wanna be in the gym. That wanna work. And then from there you build on top of that. **But if you're lazy man, I don't want to talk to you. I don't wanna deal with you. You're gonna make me feel dumber.** You know. You know, you're gonna lower my level. I don't think so. Go over there." *Kobe Bryant, Piotrekz Productions*

Work safe!