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SC101: Sociology

Seeing Things from New Perspectives

I couldn't tell you how many times that I have discussed controversial subjects such as politics, abortions, vaccinations, cancer treatments, conspiracy theories, current wars, religions, addiction, child rearing, and so on and so forth. I could, however, tell you approximately how many times these subjects went over well with someone with whom I was speaking to and the answer is very rarely. This is not because I have some radical viewpoint but because I am willing to see things from all sides and draw my conclusions that way. If you asked me how I felt about something seven years ago, it would more than likely differ to how I view something now. Not because I was 19 and naïve then as opposed to now, but because in the years since I have educated myself, researched, and listened to those around me and above me (in terms of authority, scientists, and so on).

I believe that everyone needs to see things from all sides to make the best decisions regarding themselves, their health, their futures, and society as a whole. In our current state, the country is deeply divided. Even the subgroups are divided further. It seems that no one can get along and rather than try to see things from the perspective of others, we often speak and act boldly and brash. For example: mandatory vaccinations.

This issue just came up in my state, as it had been voted into legislation by one vote last year and then the opposition garnered enough signatures to vote to repeal it. Long story short, so many people for the legislation refused to see the very real facts in front of them. Even when

delivered the information on a nonconfrontational basis, an informative what-for, they adamantly refused to acknowledge that it was an issue and persisted to state that herd immunity was in jeopardy, which it had been identified as safe. The legislation was not repealed and remains in effect; however, it will only be effective theoretically, but I won't get into that.

If we all took the time to entertain all known sides, empathize, theorize, and draw conclusions then we would be better off. Our beliefs, our ideas, our opinions, what we believe to be factual all needs to be solid enough that we can be confident but flexible enough to accept new information or to change our minds entirely in light of the aforementioned. As a mother of two, by my second child all of my preconceived notions of parenthood, my experiences with my first, and my confidence was gone with the wind; the wind, of course, being my tornado of a toddler today. I broke before I bent, and it was as if I could hear my own self telling others to see things from new perspectives. We often oppose others so strongly and eventually one breaks or you concede, but if one or both were willing to bend and allow the other's perspective then an entirely new view of the world could be formed and you could be a better person who can make a better world for our children.