

32. A “selfie” is a word that was coined several years back to refer to a photo taken by oneself.

Sometimes selfies are solo pictures, but sometimes selfies include a group of friends. It is understandable that someone who takes a lot of solo selfies and posts them might be viewed as vain or narcissistic. The ways that the overlap makes sense in a few categories. The first being the theory of periodical societal breakdown that creates a wave of young people who are less attached to their families and values, but rather infatuated with stimulation, materialism, self-absorption and have less of an attention span. Given that selfies usually take place on a phone, and a phone is the playground for a short attention span, then theory makes sense to me. I also think it makes sense that the theory of children who are raised with colder and non-affirming parents might tend to overcompensate for their feelings of rejection, by accepting everything about themselves, and develop a sort of false armor about them in order to create feelings of belonging and worthiness for themselves. This theory suggests that they are still not able to receive feedback readily and often cannot maintain relationships. In the definition for narcissistic personality disorder it mentions not only the need for admiration, but also about a lack of empathy. This is the big distinguishing factor that I think takes “selfies” out of the running as a significant problem or contributor to narcissism. People who post selfies might be looking for affirmation, but certainly not everyone who posts a selfie is lacking in empathy. I also agree with the text in regards to many selfie initiatives being used in more of a positive manner than negative light. One year everyone was encouraged to post a black and white selfie to draw awareness for women supporting women in Turkey who had been reduced to black and white photos once found dead due to femicide.