

Leopard Man – Student Packet

In this module you will be asked to consider the extent to which our society compels individuals to conform.

Items needed to complete the module:

1. Reading: “The Sociology of Leopard Man”
2. Internet access
3. Handouts:
 - Activity 1: Key Concepts
 - Activity 5: Key Vocabulary
 - Activity 8: Annotating the Text
 - Activity 11: Thinking Critically: Logos, Ethos, and Pathos
 - Activity 12: Essay Organizer

Instructions: Complete all of the activities on a separate piece of paper if no handout is provided. Label each activity so that it is easy for your teacher to check your work.

Activity 1: Key Concepts

See handout

Activity 2: Quickwrite

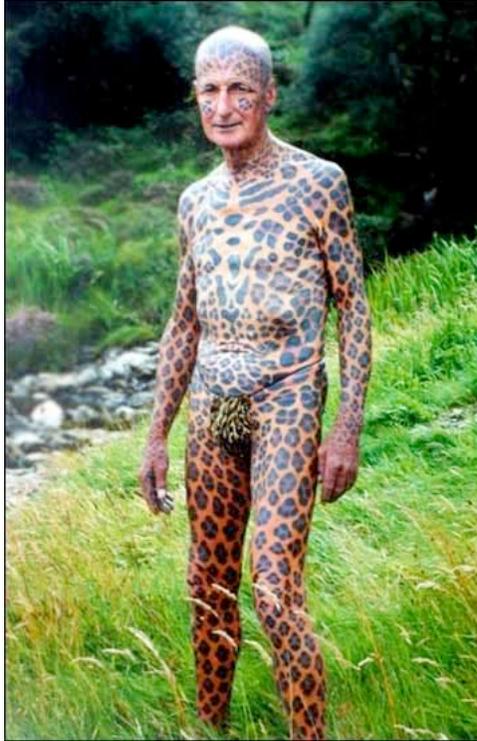
Write a paragraph in response to the following questions.

In general, how do people treat those who seem “different” from everyone else? Do you agree with this treatment? What personal experiences have you had (feeling like an outsider or knowing someone else who was treated like an outsider) that contribute to your knowledge of this subject?

Activity 3: Surveying the Text

Before you read Logan Feys’ essay “The Sociology of Leopard Man,” answer the following questions:

1. Explain the title in your own words.
2. Survey the length of the reading. Is it long or short?
3. What do you think this article is about?
4. On the next page is a picture of Tom Lepperd (Leopard Man). What do you think about this man when you look at him?



Activity 4: Making Predictions and Asking Questions

Discuss the following items about the essay you are about to read.

1. What do you think is the purpose of this essay
2. Who do you think is the intended audience for this piece? How do you know?
3. Based on the title and other features of this text, what information or ideas do you think will be in this essay?

Now read THE FIRST PARAGRAPH and the FIRST SENTENCE OF ALL THE OTHER PARAGRAPHS and answer the rest of the questions.

4. What is the main topic of the text
5. Summarize the main ideas from what you have read so far.
6. What is the author's opinion on the topic?
7. What do you think the writer wants the reader to do or believe? How did you come to this conclusion?
8. Turn the title into a question to use as you read the essay.

Activity 5: Key Vocabulary

See handout

Read “The Sociology of Leopard Man”

Activity 6: Quickwrite

Write a paragraph in response to the following questions.

Write about your understanding of the text so far. What is the text about? What is your opinion of the author’s main point so far? What parts confuse or disturb you?

Activity 7: Rereading the Text

Now that you know what “The Sociology of Leopard Man” is about, answer the following questions:

1. Look back at your original predictions in Activity 4. Which were right? Which did you modify as you read the essay?
2. What does the author think about people with tattoos and piercings? Why does he have these opinions?
3. How is Leopard Man different from other tattooed and pierced people?
4. According to Feys, what kind of people does society fear? Why?
5. What is the “world’s most common but dangerous psychological disorder” (paragraph 6)? Explain this part of Feys argument.
6. Why is Leopard Man so happy?
7. What is Feys’ final message to the reader in paragraph 11? What does he want the reader to do?

Activity 8: Annotating the Text

Activity 9: Looking Closely at Language

1. What is the definition of “non-conformists” (paragraph 2)? What image comes to mind when you hear this word?
2. How do the words “anti-social freak” (paragraph 2) make you feel? What image comes to mind when you hear this word?
3. Which words or synonyms are repeated? Why (to what effect)?
4. What does Feys mean when he says, “Most anti-social freaks, in their obsession with displaying their freakishness, are just as dependent on others’ opinions as approval-seeking socialites” (paragraph 2)? Explain what he means in this statement.
5. In paragraph 4, Feys says, “society looks down upon freakish and extraordinary individuals alike and views them with suspicion.” Who is he talking about when he says “freakish and extraordinary individuals”?

6. Are the sentences in this essay mostly long or short? Are they mainly complex sentences or simple sentences? What effect do these stylistic decisions of the author's have on the reader?

Activity 10: Summarizing the Text

The act of summarizing asks you to put someone else's ideas into your own words to improve your understanding of those ideas. Follow the steps listed below to create your summary.

- Re-read the essay.
- Circle or highlight important words, phrases, or ideas.
- Write these words, phrases, and ideas on a separate sheet of paper.
- Put the reading materials aside!
- Use the list of words, phrases, and ideas to generate summary sentences.
- Add a topic sentence that unifies the summary.

Activity 11: Thinking Critically

See handout

Activity 12: Essay Organizer

See handout

Activity 13: EPT Essay

Schedule a time to meet with your teacher to write a 45-minute timed essay. You will have only 45 minutes to plan and write an essay in response to the reading and topics of this module. You may have your essay planner (Activity 12) and the essay “The Sociology of Leopard Man” with you during writing. This essay will be scored using the EPT Rubric and is intended to mirror the English Placement Test that is administered to students entering the California State University system. The essay *must* be completed in front of a teacher.

Turn in your completed Module Packet when you meet with your teacher to write your essay.