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In today's lesson for English 2, we talked about the Amish, Vegans and non-vegans and cognitive dissonance.

IN THIS LESSON:

- Two Poems by Kirmen Uribe (Paris Review, Spring 2021)
- 2. Free Write on your life without technology
- 3. Free write on people you know who shunt tech.
- 4. Images of The Amish
- 5. In Their Own Words: Amish prover bs
- 6. Amish life: two perspectives
- 7. Lifestyle differences and cognitive dissonance

Photo Gallery: The Amish Today







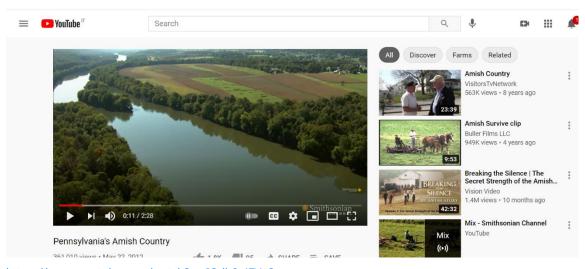








https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/amish-today/



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQdb0giFVsQ

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In their own words: Amish Wisdom

- 1. "He who has no money is poor; he who has nothing but money is even poorer."
- 2. "Tomorrow's world will be shaped by what we teach our children today."
- 3. "A clear conscience is a soft pillow."
- 4. "Remember, when you talk, you only repeat what you already know; if you listen, you might learn something."
- 5. "The most important things in your home are people."
- 6. "He who has never done anything wrong has never done anything right."
- 7. "The trouble with doing nothing is it's too hard to tell when you're finished."
- 8. "Be slow to anger and quick to forgive, and you will have friends for as long as you live."

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https://teachmiddleeastmag.com/everyone-try-amish-experience/

Everyone Should try the Amish Experience

Last summer, my family and I visited Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, which is on the east coast of the United States of America. Lancaster County has green rolling hills and beautifully cultivated farmland. We spent five days exploring this beautiful part of the country. No trip to this part of the country is complete without a visit with the Amish people on an Amish farm.

The Amish are farmers. They live with their families in the country. They do not use tractors in their fields. They use teams of horses or mules. There are horses and buggies everywhere! It is almost like being in a movie. During our visit, I saw their horses and buggies on the local roads.

The Amish people are religious. They do not own or operate cars or smart phones. They prefer a simple life. One of the surprising things is that they are happy. They are proud of their way of life. It made me think about all the things I think I cannot live without.

What if we did not have cell phones, Internet, video games or a car? Would life still be fun? The Amish people choose not to have any of those things.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsZI58MO3kE



Who Are THE AMISH? (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)

CONSIDER THE TEXTS ABOVE. WHAT IDEA OF THE AMISH CAN YOU GATHER FROM THEM? USE THE CONCEPTS FROM YOUR BOOK TO ANALYZE THEM.

STORYTIME: A GIRL LEAVES HER AMISH COMMUNITY

In a small, rural town in the state of Ohio, Emma Gingrich was born and spent the first part of her life in a strict Amish community with her 13 brothers and sisters. They spoke a form of German called "Pennsylvania Dutch" and lived separately from the rest of society. Emma and her family lived without modern conveniences like cell phones, electricity, cars, running water, and even indoor plumbing.

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Until she was 18 years old, every day was the same for Emma. She woke up, made breakfast for the family, washed the dishes, milked the cows and did her other chores (work in the house).

She had to adhere to strict clothing rules, also. Her clothes had to be perfectly ironed and her dress had to cover her ankles. She and the other women had to make sure their hair was perfectly covered.

Emma liked studying. Her community had a school where she learned basic English, even if they were not allowed to speak it at home or at school. She did not learn about History, Geography or Science. In fact, Emma thought the Earth was flat and did not know very much about the world outside her community. For the Amish children in her community, formal education stopped at 14 years old.

One day she realized that she did not want to stay in her Amish community. She felt like she wasn't good enough, that she wasn't perfect and that she was always doing something wrong. She decided to leave and ran away to the nearest city.

When she left the community, she found a way to go to school. She earned her diploma and went to the university and graduated. She also earned her MBA! She wrote a book about her experience called *Runaway Amish Girl: The Great Escape.*

In the book, she also talks about what it is like to be a teenager in her community and a strange dating ritual. When a boy likes a girl, he will go to her house in the middle of the night, wake her up and stay in her room. They do not make physical contact but they may talk together or sleep.

The boy leaves the house before the family wakes up in the morning. This happens every two weeks. This is their courting ritual. Amish people get married at 19 or 20 years old.

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When she left her home, she left the community and her family. Amish people do not stay in touch with people who leave the community. Emma understands this situation and says "That is ok. I made my decision and they made their decision, too."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvFaEM2uX80

https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/texas-womans-riveting-escape-amish-lifewords/story?id=31870212

Compare the different versions of the story above.

What can you surmise from the information in the site below?



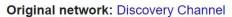
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How does it compare to the sites below?



What can we understand from this t.v. series?

Although portrayed by Discovery Channel as documentary "reality" television, the authenticity of the series has been refuted by scholars, local newspapers, and law-enforcement. The supposed secret organization within the **Amish** is known to be an entirely fictional creation for entertainment purposes only.



Genre: Reality

Original release: December 12, 2012 -; March ...

https://en.wikipedia.org > wiki > Amish_Mafia

Amish Mafia - Wikipedia





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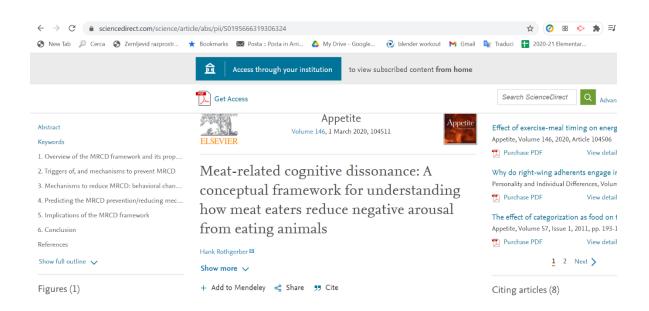
We spoke about the media's representation of the Amish in terms of "pastoral" and "quaint" or "hypocritical and here's why..."

Could there be cognitive bias at work here? We made a comparison between how popular media treats the Amish to the Vegan vs Omnivore debate in particular.

For information on Cognitive bias, see this article.

https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200203-the-hidden-biases-that-drive-anti-vegan-hatred

It refers to the article below.



Use the tools you have in your arsenal and see what you think! Enjoy the break! See you soon!