

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Helicopter Parents Activity 14: Thinking Critically

Discuss the following questions with your group and be specific:

Questions about Logic (Logos)

1. What kind of evidence does Strauss include to support her claims?
2. What evidence does Stauss provide that suggests overly involved parents really do hinder their children's independence? Does she give examples of teenagers or college students who failed to learn self-reliance as a result of being "micromanaged"? Do you find the evidence Strauss provides convincing?
3. Can you think of other examples of the consequences of over- parenting that Strauss doesn't discuss?
4. Does Strauss discuss any benefits of parents being involved in their children's school lives? If so, what?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

5. Can you think of benefits of parent involvement that Strauss doesn't discuss? For example, how might parents volunteering in a middle school classroom help students grow and learn?

6. Who is likely to disagree with Strauss's view? Why?

7. Are you persuaded that having a "helicopter parent" makes children too dependent? What else could happen?

Questions about the Writer (Ethos)

1. The people and organizations whose research is discussed in "Putting Parents in their Place" are listed below. How reliable do you think they are? Why?
 - Ron Goldblatt, executive director of the Association of Independent Maryland Schools

 - Linda Walter, administrator at Seton Hall University in New Jersey

 - Mark McCarthy, assistant vice president and dean of Student Development at Marquette University in Milwaukee

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

- Donald Pollock, chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the State University of New York at Buffalo

 - An unidentified Bethesda mother

 - A spokesperson for Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y.

 - The Parent Program at Alma College in Michigan
2. How would you describe the writer's tone when she is expressing her own opinions (like in the first three paragraphs)? How is her tone different when she's quoting experts? Where do you see a shift from her point of view to someone else's?

Questions about Emotions (Pathos)

1. Which words and phrases from the article express a sense of risk or threat? Do these references to danger help you have more or less sympathy for parents who are overly protective of their children?

2. Why does Donald Pollock, chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the State University of New York, describe the millennial generation as "poor babies" in the article? Why do you think Strauss uses this quotation?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Other Questions to Develop Critical Thinking

1. What assumptions does Strauss seem to make about the importance of self-reliance?
What other values or qualities are also important for children to learn?

2. How do you think kids best learn to be self-reliant?

What advice do you think Strauss would give to parents? Schools? Students? What advice would you give?