



Psychology Q1

Eleanor Roosevelt declared, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Is she right?

Key Issues and Questions to Address

1. The Nature of Emotions: Are emotions choices, responses, or something else entirely?
How much conscious control do we actually have over our emotional responses?
2. Neurological Perspectives: What do neuroscience findings tell us about emotional processing and the possibility of "consent" to emotions?
3. Childhood Development: How do early experiences shape our vulnerability or resilience to others' judgments? Does this undermine the notion of "consent"?
4. Social Power Dynamics: How do social hierarchies and power differentials impact our ability to reject others' negative judgments?
5. Cultural Differences: How might cultural contexts influence the extent to which individuals can maintain emotional autonomy?
6. Psychological Trauma: How do traumatic experiences affect one's ability to prevent feelings of inferiority imposed by others?



John Locke Global Essay Prize 2025 Prompts Breakdown
Psychology Category - Key Issues and Questions to Address



7. Socialization and Internalized Beliefs: How do socialized beliefs (about gender, race, class, etc.) affect our vulnerability to feeling inferior?
8. Individual Differences: Why are some people more resilient to criticism than others? Is this a matter of choice or disposition?
9. The Meaning of "Consent": What does Roosevelt mean by "consent" in this context? Is it active agreement, passive acceptance, or something else?
10. Historical Context: How did Roosevelt's personal experiences and historical context shape her perspective? Did her privileged position enable this view?
11. Stoicism vs. Emotional Authenticity: Is Roosevelt advocating a Stoic approach to emotions? Is such control always desirable or healthy?
12. Therapeutic Perspectives: How do different therapeutic approaches view the relationship between external events, thoughts, and feelings?