

Snap Judgements



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The life of our students can, at times, be very confusing. Even more when contradictions arise. Picture your grandfather telling you that he does not need the vaccine. But then the president says you must take the vaccine or you are a bad person. What if mom says don't go outside. I don't want you to contact Covid-19. Then dad calls you to help him outside. Who wins? Well that depends on the family dynamic.

Children always have their little antennas up and regardless if you discuss it as a family, over the last couple months, the 18 year old on trial in Kenosha has been declared a racist murderer and according to radio and TV reports, most believed that this young man was unprovoked and intentionally killed three black students. Then came the videos. Many have seen them and all of a sudden the kids see a crowd chasing this 17 year old, including one with a pistol aimed at his head. Then they find out all three that were shot were white.

Many students have reportedly talked at school about this change and teachers are all over the board. Some even answered I just don't know -- yes, it is also a confusing time for teachers and parents.

Kids are always listening. It's just their understanding that changes over the years. You, as the adult, would be wise to not jump to conclusions on events like Kenosha. Snap judgements are easy to make, but not always founded in fact. You might change your idea as time goes on. Changing your opinion might be hard to explain why you said what you did before and not now.

This reminds me of numerous times as a principal I was called to handle situations. I let all involved have their say. The bleeding kid was not necessarily the instigator. Fairness was always more important than speed. Just a note, I am writing this on November 14th and have no idea what will transpire. I have no idea what the jury will decide.

Regardless of your feelings on this case, an important lesson for the students is to not make snap judgements. Assist your student and not form an opinion too quickly. There will be a day when Kenosha fades away, but will be replaced by some other event that will affect our children and ability to get along.