

## PROJECT: OPPOSITE AND EQUAL REACTION

Some years ago, an extreme skier had one of those heart-stopping moments. He was busting down a very steep slope high in some mountains when he lost control and began tumbling down the side. As he slid and rolled down the mountain he headed straight for a precipice—one that would take him off the mountain and force him to freefall thousands of feet to his death. With great desperation and determination, he managed to stop his fall just a few feet from the edge of the cliff. Whew!

Asked later if he would continue to extreme ski since he was one of the world's best skiers, he said no way. He went on to say that in nearly every case like his, the skier had plunged to his death. Second chances did not come very often in his sport, and he was not about to take a chance for a similar experience. Smart guy!

Many times, people learn from the past so as not to repeat the same mistakes in the future. Likewise, they learn from the past when something went well and try to emulate the action or attitude. This is the reason studying history is so important. It creates—between generations—an opposite and equal reaction to things.

For example, during the 1950s, many Americans were very religious. Whether they went to a house of worship or not, they tended to be very conservative in their beliefs and often adhered to the concepts of right and wrong, honesty, integrity, and so forth.

Ah, but then the '60s came along! That generation did everything they could to irritate the '50s, so to speak. They rebelled at everything having to do with the establishment. Why? Well, the '60s generation saw a whole lot of inconsistencies and hypocrisies in the previous generation and did not want anything to do with them.

The '70s was all about recovering from the 1960s and in the process, that generation saw the mess created by years of war and protests and wanted nothing of it. By the end of the decade, society had drifted right back into its conservative mode.

The 1980s saw conservative values reign once again only to be replaced by more liberal thinking the following decade. Now, here you are in the new millennium. Be prepared to answer the following questions.

## Instructions

Answer the following questions – be specific:

1. In your opinion, is your generation more or less conservative in its value system than the previous generation, and why?
2. In your opinion, how do you think the next generation of teenagers will feel about their value system? Will it be more or less liberal than yours?