

Where is hope in society?

Contribution 1

Here's Hoping

Hope is directed towards the future. It is our expectation of good outcomes.

Being creatures of habit it is all too easy to fall into despair if we listen or read too much global news. We have to work to remain thinking positively. Having said that, it takes fewer muscles to smile than to frown – 13 to smile, 47 to frown, so not hard work really.

As I age, I see myself transferring hope to the next generation. Is that because I have given up hope of my own generation, or because I think they will make a better job of it than us?

It is very easy to imagine that the well-being of the world is in worse state than ever before – I am not sure that it is. We have much more access to information today, compared to a few hundred years ago, I am certainly glad to be living today rather than at any other time in history.

And then we have our own personal hopes and fears and for our immediate families and communities. Teenage hopes and fears are very different from what we might hope for and fear in our age group.

Change and the ability to adapt to change is one of the secrets of life. My grand parents' thinking was very different from that of my grandchildren. Many different conditions, circumstances and perspectives exist for each generation. All the same, I am not sure that the human condition changes all that much. Most people in the world just want to wake up in the morning and have a good day.

Well, let's hope so...

Contribution 2

Hope:

Hope = Glass 1/2 full.

Hope = Anaesthetic to the current situation.

- Only hope when things are bad

- No need for hope when things are great

Hope = Wishing for something above the odds.

Hope is good for individuals - helps keep sane.

Hope is bad for governments. Should plan for the worst. eg nuclear power, hoping one day somebody will work out what to do with nuclear waste, but blasting ahead anyway when there are no solutions.

Hope can stop people being realistic and planning for a practical reality.

Where is hope in Society?

- ve Buying lottery tickets
- ve buying takeaways
- ve tailgating, vaping, smoking etc etc

- +ve Quality British manufacturing.
- +ve Growth in environmental awareness.

Questions that may be considered

Is there a difference between hope and optimism?

'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' What is the relationship between vision and hope?

Is it true that hope is only important when things are bad?

What kind of culture/environment fosters hope? What are the consequences if a society is hope-less?

Is hope to be found in people or in circumstances? What is the root of hope?