



*A stereotype is an oversimplified impression or generalization about a person, group, place, or thing.*

## How others view us

This is a list of impressions of North American youth as expressed by youth from other continents at a 1998 global youth gathering in the United States.

- *Young people in North America are spoiled.*
- *Young people in North America are rich.*
- *Young people in North America are lazy.*
- *Young people in North America live in large modern homes.*
- *Young people in North America are given cars by their 16th birthdays.*
- *North American women are thin and have blonde hair and blue eyes.*
- *North American men refuse to show their emotions.*
- *In North America, everyone wears brand-name clothing.*
- *North American children are rude and disrespectful.*



*Discuss the following questions in your group:*

- **How do you feel about the ideas in this list?**
- **What do you think are the sources of these impressions?**
- **What are some of the effects of stereotypes on groups and individuals?**
- **What are the predominant media portrayals of North American youth?**