All Relationships Are Important

Written by Ariana Riccio, Brooks School February 21, 2017

I don't understand how other people think. I will hear people in the dorm talk about [insert random celebrity here] is "so hot" and has "abs" and does sports and stuff. I do not understand what they are talking about. That guy is not attractive and he needs to put a shirt on. I don't think that his mother would let him walk around outside like that. I have always been like this. People ask me if I thought X person was attractive and I would say something like "Nah." Because that's just it. I don't find people attractive...most of the time.

I would say in very rare conditions do I find myself actually liking someone. This is because I am on the aromantic spectrum (google it, it's not the topic of this paper). I am also on the asexual spectrum. To clarify, being asexual means that I do not experience sexual attraction. Now some people might find that sad or whatever but I don't. I think it kind of just gives a person more perspective on relationships in general.

For instance, most people think that all relationships' end goal is sex. This is not true. People can choose to have sex if they wish, but it should not be the height of a relationship. If it is, then all of the other things that people do in a relationship will not be considered "as enjoyable" or "as exciting" as sex would be. Having sex as the "endpoint" per se inherently means that those who don't want to have sex just will never have any "real" fulfilling relationships in their lives. This just is not true. It's just not. This idea is an archaic philosophy that has carried over to today. I feel as though once one understands that sex is not the paragon of any fulfilling relationship, they understand more about relationships and that people's experiences in everything are different.

That being said, I digress. I think that relationships are great for those that can have them. They make people happy, and that's all that really matters in life, right? I think that it's probably is pretty hard to maintain those relationships in a boarding school that has 6 days of classes a week, so power to those who can do that. Even so in these relationships, it is important to be open with your partner and talk to them. Consent, am I right? I think that we can all take the time to get to know each other better if we took the time to focus on something other than sex. It is important to show respect to those who are different than us.

Romantic relationships may not be the most important relationships in the world. For some people platonic relationships are all they need. I think that in society when people know more about queer/quasi platonic relationships (Google it), they will become more accepting of these relationships. Personally, I haven't seen any QPR relationships during my time at this boarding school, but that could be because of how little our society values friendship over romantic love. People in QPRs are also very valid. Although some might not believe that two people can live platonically with each other for the rest of their lives. There are many different people out there

and it is important to love and trust one another. That is truly what all relationships are based on, whether it is platonic love, romantic love or any other type of relationship.