

## WSDC 2022 Semi Finals : HK vs Singapore

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Qa5eTZ5H9nM?si=dPqclI7LSnDEAkAt>

This house prefers parenting models that adultify teenagers (i.e. giving them more responsibilities and autonomy, assuming higher capacity for independence) to those which emphasize their status and treatment as teenagers (i.e. refraining from giving them adult responsibilities, emphasizing they are legal minors).

### Summary

PROP	OPP
<p><b>Framing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In status quo, there is a mix of both parenting models, however the model proposed by PROP side is gaining prominence despite people being more accustomed to traditionally viewing teenagers as more irrational and parents feeling like they know more</li></ul> <p><b>Proponents parenting model :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Adultification looks like a general guidance framework which adapts to different families through trial and error but generally there is more freedom for the teenagers. For example, teenagers are more likely to have financial autonomy as they would be given an allowance monthly rather than asking their parents for money on every purchase or asking permission to buy said items. The teenagers will also be given more responsibilities such as more chores.</li></ul> <p><b>Additional:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- PROP states the bottomline is that, the two models between PROP and OPP are not only very different in terms of dictating what is allowed for teenagers, but also how the parents and their children communicate.</li><li>- PROP states that parents on both sides have a common incentive which is to protect their child because they want what's best for them</li></ul>	<p><b>Framing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- In status quo, most societies already view teenagers as capable of shouldering some degree of responsibility and that is why in most cultures they can go out with friends at night or learn to drive</li></ul> <p><b>Opponents parenting model :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Giving teens responsibilities and experiences increases more gradually than government as everything is done in a controlled environment under parent's supervision. Parents are also stricter and will monitor and/or punish their children when they feel like the children are making mistakes that endanger them or have a lot of risks (depends on the severity of the situation)</li></ul> <p><b>Additional:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- OPP says what PROP needs to do is actually defend giving teenagers actual adult responsibilities and autonomy which not just the ability to have sex or partying but more like the ability to drink or smoke when it's legal or to impose them the burden of having to find their own money as that is what adults actually do</li></ul>
<p><b>Burden of proof</b></p> <p>Prove why giving teenagers more autonomy and freedom is overall beneficial for the teenager and family - how the autonomy betters family relationships, better prepares teenagers for the future and how it better protects the wellbeing of teenagers</p>	<p><b>Burden of proof</b></p> <p>Prove why imposing stricter parenting is the better option - how less autonomy protects teenagers better physically and mentally, how it protects and betters family relationships in the long run</p>
<p><b>A1 : Betters family relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teenagers are going through a lot of mental and physical changes, therefore their desires are also changing and maturing</li><li>• PROP states in OPP's side, family relationships are constantly at the risk of getting fractured because these teenagers</li></ul>	<p><b>A1 : Counterbalancing teenage recklessness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The premise of this argument is two inherent aspects of teenage psychology<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Teenagers overestimate their ability to be an adult - teenagers' brains are wired in a way that breeds overconfidence -</li></ol></li></ul>

<p>don't have the freedom to make decisions with how they spend their time and to act on these desires - these desires will then translate into rebellion as the teenagers will feel as though they are being treated as children which goes against teen's desires of being given more freedom- a lot of friction will occur due to the different desires of parents and their children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In PROP's side the parents are more likely to communicate with their children rather than patronize them as opposed to OPP's side where parents don't communicate with their children as they believe that their children are incapable of making major life decisions - this dialogue that happens between parents and their children that happen on PROP's side helps improve family relationship as the teenagers will feel as though they are heard by their parents on an equal level, thus mitigating resentment</li> </ul>	<p>teenagers have an underdeveloped prefrontal cortex (used to make rational decisions) and instead use their amygdala which is associated with emotions and impulses to make decisions - teenagers are basically unaware of their own instinct of overconfidence in being an adult</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Teenagers are more susceptible to societal pressures because teenage years are an important part of identity formation which fuels a teenager's instinctive craving for acceptance - making them more vulnerable to peer pressure and popular culture -</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teenagers will end up inherently taking on adult responsibilities that they can't handle because of these two reasons and end up harming themselves by getting into risky experiences (ie staying out at 3 a.m, smoking) because these seem like the cornerstone of adulthood</li> <li>• In OPP'sworld - parents balance against psychological biases by treating these teenagers like their actual age rather than as adults - parents will advice teenagers and also prevent teenagers from rebelling and being reckless by monitoring what they do or punishing them - thus prevent teenagers from making risky and reckless decisions</li> </ul>
<p>A2 : Better prepares teenagers for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of a parent extends beyond the first 18 years of a child's life - on PROP side, the children are prepared for the future because responsibility is given to them gradually as opposed to the OPP side, where responsibility is suddenly thrust onto these teenagers</li> <li>• PROP says that these teenagers are unprepared in OPP's world because often times, with stricter parents - responsibility is thrust onto these teenagers the second they leave the house (ie suddenly given a bank account to manage with no previous experience or having no parents to hover and look after them in college)</li> <li>• PROP agrees that on both sides - all parents want is for their children to be well prepared for the future - the debate is about which method undertakes it</li> <li>• Preparation in PROP's world - things like monthly allowances would be given to</li> </ul>	<p>A2 : Compromising mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premise : Adulthood is a complex thing - adultifying teenagers / treating teenagers like an adult means exposing teenagers to the full range of complexities - not just the joys of having independence but also the burdens of having adult experiences</li> <li>• On OPP's side, they shield teenagers from these burdens by not treating them like an adult - OPP states that the parents on PROP side are more likely to be frank about these burdens with their children - it is a key part of parent's own experience (ie exposing their children to marriage problems or financial burdens)</li> <li>• Devastating for two reasons <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teenagers are already going through manu other struggles - academic pressure , new social environments at school - while these may seem trivial, teenagers have fewer lived experiences -</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

teenagers - experiences like this will allow them to navigate their finance independently, however they can always ask for advice from their parents if it is needed - the autonomy given on PROP side is significantly beneficial - teenagers will know how to manage and handle themselves better due to building good habits such as managing finances and finding their own food/cooking for themselves and thus they are much more independent + they would not need their parents to motivate and scrutinize them to do such things

- trivial things will seem very impactful for them - they are more likely to be affected by it
2. Parents are the main support system for teenagers - this responds directly to PROP's supposed benefit of teenagers confiding more in parents (ie 15 year olds are forced to confront ugly impacts of cheating before even entering a relationship or children come home after a long day of school only for their mom to tell them that they should deal with their school struggles themselves bcs parents have other things to do like making money ) - it means children lose their only safe space- thus reduces to their ability to seek help and exposing them to the traumatic realities of adulthood before they're ready to handle it

Reply :

- In OPP's world- all of the harms PROP mention such as increased rebellion and strained family relationships is worse because the parents force their children to act a certain way
- In status quo - parents are naturally predisposed towards OPP's model - not because of societal narrative but because biologically, you see them as children that you have raised from such a young age - PROP states it is ridiculous for OPP claim that because societal narratives change , parents will refrain from being overprotective
- PROP's model is a counterbalance to this natural incentive - parents are more likely to try and listen to their kids and let them date/drink but on neither side will you do nothing about criminal acts
- PROP's case isn't only about what parents chose to allow and disallow but also the method of doing so - how children receive the message
- 3 clashes :
  1. Who gets better outcomes for teenagers ? - On PROP's side parents are unlikely to stop teenagers from doing bad things - the predisposition to reckless behavior is symmetrical on both sides because teenagers always compare themselves to the one kid who doesn't have overprotective parents and/or media influences - in

Reply :

- two worlds in this debate
  1. PROP's world is based on a misunderstanding of debate - things like having monthly allowance or inculcating skills like cooking and doing chores - OPP has pointed out multiple times that these things actually happen in OPP's world which is treating teenagers as teenagers and not as children- therefore, on OPP side - parents still teach teenagers how to cook or financial literacy by giving allowance -
  2. OPP states that PROP evades burden of defending truly adult responsibilities/experience like drinking and earning their own money and instead says that parents are inherently overprotective or inherently overbearing thus compromising relationships in OPP's world - OPP says PROP doesn't realize it cuts both ways - OPP was clear about how everything is symmetric in both worlds - for example, if parents can explain why teenagers aren't allowed to do certain things in gobs world, it can be also done in OPP's world - the only difference is that parents

<p>PROP's world teens are more likely to be open to their parent's advice if they believe they are being respected and won't be as reckless</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Teens won't see heavy drinking/drugs as an act of rebellion - when parents ban teenagers from certain things such as alcohol - it ignites curiosity - therefore things like drinking becomes a cathartic act of rebellion for teens and makes it more appealing for them to make risky decisions</li> <li>3. PROP's side protect teens who make mistakes - parents can help once their children already make mistakes because their children are willing to seek help and be open to them - PROP states that all OPP counters with is how teenagers will build good habits about the future and avoid mistakes but on OPP's side teenagers and parents can't have conversations about the future due to having a strained relationship - teenagers being scared of their parents</li> </ol>	<p>in OPP's world prevents the risks of risky activities brings completely because they dictate what their children can and cannot do (by advising and enforcing) - thus protecting the wellbeing of teenagers better</p>
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