

Grandma's Rule



Why Grandmas?

Is your Grandma a special person in your life? Has she told you her story? Grandmothers occupy a unique place in many people's lives. They represent a certain unity of life and a pathway to collective (national, political, social etc.) and family histories. Yet, they often tend to be conservative and they are not always approving of what you do or wear. They can be critical of certain behaviours, despite their often unconditional love. But, again, nobody wants to upset them!

Grandma's Rule

If you have chosen not to upset your grandmother by not attacking her views on your dressing and behaviour, you may try to do so with a fellow student who holds similar views. If you have chosen not to post a crazy photo of you on Facebook, because your grandmother may see it (another version of Grandma's Rule), you may apply the same criteria when you are ready to say something nasty about other people's views on their/your choice of dress code, etc.



What can I do then?



Does this mean that I have to suspend all critical comments against somebody else's views? Can I express an opinion without upsetting someone else? Yes you can! Despite that none of us occupies any moral high ground that allows us to criticise other people's choices, we can engage in a dialogical process where opposite views are offered with kindness and never out of context. Explaining to your grandmother your desire to wear a certain outfit is a daunting task, but not an impossible one. It requires a careful choice of words and a lot of patience. You may try this approach next time you feel the urge to criticise a fellow student for his or his family's choice of clothing or his criticism of yours.