

Television Sitcom: Felicity
Source: WB (Wednesday 9pm)

This sitcom depicts the life of a high school graduate Felicity Porter. Felicity turns down a scholarship at Stanford to follow her long time crush, Ben Covington. She ends up enrolling in the fictional University of New York. Felicity's parents were overbearing and made every decision for her. Her decision to travel to New York and attend college there was extremely upsetting to her parents but something she felt she needed to do. She defies her parent's wishes in search of her own identity and sense of self.

A significant plotline in the sitcom which indicates the indecisiveness present in many emerging adults concerns felicity's own academic aspirations. She originally planned to be a pre-med student and attend Stanford to follow in her father's footsteps. However she realized once she arrived at the University of New York that she wanted to study art. She was caught in an internal conflict whether to follow the sensible practical route her parents expected or to take her own route and take a risk on something she is passionate about but is less secure.

Felicity surrounds herself with quirky friends including Julie, the guitar player, Elena the driven student and Noel the resident advisor and on and off boyfriend. Through the interaction of these characters the shows presents a number of serious topics that emerging adults typically face. In a dramatic scene in one of the episodes Julie was date-raped and struggled desperately to recover and regain a sense of security. Felicity lost her virginity and the writers depicted the scene extremely realistically, somewhat awkward and uncomfortable. In contrast most shows today completely glamorize sex and depict it in a fairytale setting with unrealistic expectations.

Another important issue the show covers is pregnancy and the morning after pill. Felicity and her roommates campaigned for the morning after pill to be available at their college. The characters are fighting for a voice and they want the freedom to make independent decisions. There was another storyline where Noel thought he impregnated his girlfriend and had to contemplate the possibility of becoming a father. As it turns out this he was not the father of the baby and then has to learn to cope with real heartbreak and deceit. Through this experience Noel lost his sense of stability and no longer knew what he needed or wanted out of life.

The show touches universal themes which apply to all emerging adults. The characters are often plagued with problem in their relationships. Felicity and Noel go through a difficult summer separation and then again Felicity goes through another separation period with Ben. Emerging adulthood is a time of great instability nothing seems certain this is evident in the relationships of the characters. The show succeeds in portraying the state of mind and attitude of college students and emerging adults.

Anonymous