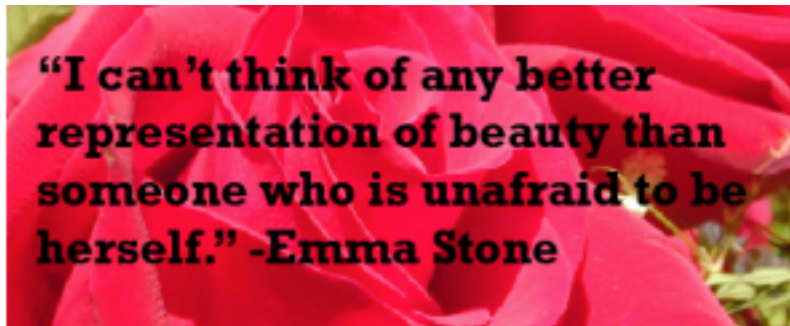


July 29, 2014  
Be yourself.



Growing up, we were constantly told to “just be ourselves,” and everything would work out. But now, I’ve realized life is a little more complicated than just being myself. I mean, it’s important to remember what makes you who you are, but the concept of ‘fitting in’ can sometimes overpower who you are.

In 2011, Emma Stone gave a speech, where she said, *“I can’t think of any better representation of beauty than someone who is unafraid to be herself.”* By just remembering what you stand for, instantly makes you stronger and more beautiful, because I think your personality is beauty. Your personality is the best make-up you could ever wear. Why? Because it’s 100 percent YOU. And that’s all that should matter.

Beyoncé said in 2013, *“Why do you have to choose what type of woman you are? Why do you have to label yourself anything?”* We live in world where labeling *everything* is common, but who said that’s how it has to be? Why should we have to settle for being categorized as one thing? I know, personally, I would never want to be confined to just one label. We’re all way more than that. One word cannot describe your essence.

Melinda Gates in a 2003 speech added, *“A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman.”*

Speak up. Having confidence and your own voice is powerful. Too powerful to waste. So, let your voice be heard; let your opinions matter. And act on those opinions. I know you can. If we all had the strength to stand tall and speak up—think of how much we could accomplish? We could change the world; make a difference.

Did you know that Ginger Rogers did everything [dance partner] Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels? Every complicated move and combination Astaire did, Rogers did it too, but she did it in heels, backwards, and with grace and elegance. If she can do it, we all can, and that applies to anything.

Just believe in who you are, and don’t be afraid to be yourself.

Miranda Siwak, WE Intern