Smith: 00:00 Hello. Thank you for listening to our podcast. I'm Alaina.

Zimmerman 00:05 I'm Markie

Boyce 00:06 I’m Grant.

Smith 00:07 And we are Parkland anthropology students presenting our ethnography on the Parkland community's general opinion on body art.

Zimmerman: 00:13 We found interest in this topic because two of our group members display various forms of body art and we all feel positively towards it. Since tattoos and piercings are becoming more prevalent we wanted to learn Parkland's opinion and level of acceptance. Recently body art has become more popular within pop culture social media and television. Because of this there's been a positive shift in public opinion towards body art. We wanted to see if this translated to a positive opinion on the Parkland campus as well.

Boyce: 00:43 I personally do not have any tattoos or piercings visible or not. With that being said I have been exposed to a huge amount of body art throughout my life. My immediate family is also tattoo free but I cannot say the same for my extended family. My family on both my dad's side my mom's side have a multitude of tattoos and body piercings ranging in size and visibility. In addition to them, the Parkland student body and my professors have become a source of exposure to body art. Since professors come into contact with so many people, many of them having body art, I felt it would be a great idea to get an opinion from them.

Boyce to Subject 1: Do you have any tattoos and piercings?

Subject 1: 01:22 I do

Boyce 01:23 And where are they?

Subject 1: 01:25 I have one tattoo on my left wrist inside and I have two piercings on each ear. I also used to have my nose pierced, my right nostril. I no longer have that piercing. My ears were pierced when I was four years old, which is a family ritual. My
sisters all got their ears pierced on their fourth birthday, and so did I. My tattoo has special spiritual and religious significance.

Boyce 02:02 So what general opinion do you have of tattoos?

Subject 1: 02:03 I love them. I think that if there weren’t social constraints, I would probably have many more, many more tattoos and piercings.

Smith: 02:15 Most of my family and friends have some form of bodyguard when interviewing Parkland's students, we asked if they display body art.

Smith, to Subject 2: 02:22 Do you have any thoughts or body piercing.

Subject 2: 02:26 I have twelve tattoos.

Smith: 02:27 Wow!

Smith, to Subject 3: 02:28 Do you have any thoughts or body piercings?

Subject 3: 02:31 I do have body piercings, yes.

Smith: 02:35 Many of my close friends at Parkland and outside of school see body art as a way to express yourself. I myself happen to have a few tattoos and various piercings, so I can easily relate to those who display body art. My family and friends have always been supportive in my decision to express myself in this way.

Zimmerman: 02:53 I have had a lot of experience with body art. A good amount of my friends, my siblings, cousins and myself have tattoos and piercings. I would say that I've had a lot of positive experiences with body art from people who are close to me. The one exception would be from my parents and my friends’ parents who are very against tattoos because of their opinions. We wanted to ask Parkland parents about their experience with body art. A Parkland parent who was interviewed had some strong opinions.

Zimmerman, to Subject 4 03:21 What is your opinion of tattoos and piercings?

Subject 4: 03:30 I like my ears pierced and that’s about the extent of it. I’ve had many surgeries and many scars and many traumatic events and I don't see why anybody would go purposefully scar themselves up when they don’t have to, when life will scar you enough the way it is.Zimmerman to Subject 4: 03:41Is their typical group that you associate with body art?
We explored the world of Body art and the opinions of Parkland parents, teachers, and, of course, students. We focused on body art in the form of tattoos and piercings and we wanted to learn how the community felt about this topic. Before the study, we believed the students will have a positive overall opinion while parents and faculty would have a much more negative opinion.

As native ethnographers, our main tools of research were participant observation, surveys, and individual interviews. Our surveys were given to a variety of Parkland students and teachers. We found that students and teachers had a positive view of Body art on the Parkland campus. The interviews with students and parents were used to get a more detailed opinion within this topic. The result of the interviews showed us that, again, students were very accepting of body art, while parents were much more against.

I enjoy them; I think they're cool. I think people can express themselves with them.

Just covering yourself with ink for the sake of covering yourself with ink just to look like you’re in a gang or something is ridiculous.

Our in-depth interview with a member of the Parkland faculty, we learned that teachers are actually rather accepting when it comes to having students with tattoos and piercings.

Probably the coolest people that I know have body art. And so I think I want to be really cool like that.

Exposure to a variety of students as given many teachers a more open minded view on body art. Our participant observation proved to be rather difficult because this time of year most students are more covered up than they would be in warmer weather. If we would have researched our topic in summer, we may have had different results. Our results show that overall the Parkland community has a general positive outlook on many forms of body art. Most students agree that tattoos and piercings are a positive way to express yourself in today's society. Although parents are on the less accepting side of this topic, teachers have become more comfortable with the idea of body art. Thanks for listening.