

Overgeneralizations

What does the word,
"Overgeneralization" mean?

The word "overgeneralization" is when someone makes an excessively vague statement about something or someone. Since the statements are very broad and vague in nature, they are hard to prove or disprove.

Example #1

One time when I went out to eat, I ate a meal with cauliflower. The cauliflower was gross and made the whole meal taste terrible. I do not think I will ever like a meal with cauliflower because this one was so bad!

Example #2

Sarah tried out for the travel soccer team. She didn't make the team, and was extremely upset. Because of this, she believed she would never make a travel soccer team and wanted to give up.

Example #3

Everyone wears Nikes to run in so they are the best shoe to buy if I am going to train for a race.

Characteristics of Overgeneralizations

- You are worried to try something again because you have had a negative experience previously.
- You want to do what everyone else is doing and assume it is the right way or the only way.
- You talk yourself out of experiences because you are worried about how it will be perceived by others.
- You make broad statements about different situations, whether they are positive or negative.

Not All Overgeneralizations Are Negative!

- Most kids like cheese pizza over pepperoni pizza.
- If kids had a choice of hamburgers or hot dogs, they would choose hot dogs.
- Kids would rather go to P.E. class than music class.
- Students like math better than reading.

Your Turn!

**Complete the Frayer
Model worksheet and quiz
independently to show
your knowledge and what
you have learned!**

