

I believe in privacy. Which, I guess, everybody sort of believes in, but that's kind of the point. Privacy is something everybody should have and is not something that everybody gets. Personally, I think that there are multiple types of privacy. I know I like being able to sit somewhere doing whatever I'm doing without having somebody glancing over my shoulder every minute or so. There's also the type of privacy where I just don't want to share what I'm thinking but I have to, and surprisingly this version is broken more often than the first one.

Both versions of privacy can happen everywhere to anybody, but I always experience them at school. I usually just want to sit quietly and evaluate all my life decisions, but I get called out with what-are-you-thinking-about and share-your-thoughts.

For example, let's say I'm in class. I am using the class time given to do homework, and am generally focused and working hard. At least I am until a shadow descends upon my world and I hear someone asking, "So what are you writing about?" I understand that different people will have different ways to define privacy, but my definition involves not hovering over my shoulder and reading what I may or may not have written. Teachers will also ask for students to share their personal thoughts, whether that be through work or calling on a student during class, even when it's painfully clear that the person does *not* want to speak up.

There was one experience during middle school where any illusion of privacy I had in my class was shattered. I wouldn't say I was extremely shy, but I definitely didn't want anybody to notice me or make me interact with them. There used to be this lady who would help watch over the class and she would constantly try to get me to talk despite my assurances that I didn't want to. This one day, though, this lady was subbing for the main teacher and she asked if anybody wanted to share their response to the assignment. I didn't have my hand raised, I wasn't even looking at her, but I was still called on. I was annoyed, but this part was fine. I shared what I had, which was short but covered all the criteria. The part that annoyed me was when she started prying and asking questions that had nothing to do with what the actual teacher wanted.

Whenever I get into my work and write stuff about me, either a teacher or a classmate snoops and I end up getting uncomfortable and changing everything I wrote to make it less personal. I also have others asking about what I am thinking, which isn't a bad thing by itself. It only becomes a bad thing when they won't take my answer as the "true" answer, as if it's a right of theirs to know my thoughts. Asking after another's well-being is good, prying into someone's private thoughts is not.