

Differences At-a-Glance

Underachievers...

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- ... do not understand causes or cures
 - ...are dependent and reactive
 - ...tend to withdraw
 - ...respect or fear authority figures
 - ...need both structure and
Imposed limits
 - ...exhibit uniformly wear performance
 - ...generally require family intervention
 - ...may change over the long term
 - ...are often perfectionistic; nothing
they do is ever good enough
 - ...have a poor academic self-image

Selective Consumers...

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- ...can explain both the problem and possible
solutions
 - ...are independent and proactive
 - ...tend to rebel
 - ...see teachers as adversaries; can be
contentious
 - ...require little structure;
need "breathing room"
 - ...exhibit performance that varies relative
to the teacher and/or content
 - ...can usually be dealt with within school
resources
 - ...may change "overnight"
 - ...are frequently satisfied with their
accomplishments
 - ...see themselves as academically able

What are some characteristics that underachievers and selective consumers may have in common? There are at least four:

1. Their socialization with classmates may be impaired.
2. They prefer a "family" vs. a "factory" classroom atmosphere.
3. They need to change both their behaviors and their attitudes.
4. They may need guidance or counseling to achieve academic success.

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