

Being a 15-year-old girl, I can tell you just how cool things are. It's hard to break down exactly what makes something cool, but there are some basic guidelines. Jeans with elastic waists are never cool. Overdone makeup is not cool. If Lil' Wayne's the rapper in the song, it's cool.

My first glimpse of Sen. Clinton at this week's Indianapolis Star editorial meeting, made one thing clear: Hillary Clinton is definitely not cool.

At the meeting, Sen. Clinton was asked questions on everything from international relations to race relations, and it quickly became evident that what she lacked in coolness, she more than made up for in intelligence. Speaking with no notes, she answered every question articulately, and while she showed full understanding of the issues---which is to be expected--- she was also able to present a competent plan on how to make her visions a reality.

*Clinton: "I have laid out a number of proposals for paying for what I have advocated. In fact I'm the only one of the candidates who has done that, dollar for dollar." I think that youth of today have a similar impression of Hillary as my first. It's noteworthy in this election cycle, because Barak Obama has style --- and lets face it he's "cool." Obama is energetic, black, and his message of hope attracts young people.*

But Hillary hasn't forgotten what it is like to be young either. When I had the opportunity to ask her a question, I asked about a letter she wrote to her friend, John Peavoy, when in college. In it, she cited her many different personality metamorphoses. I wanted to know who is she today, and why she deserves the support of youth. She said that she remembered her college years well. She continued to tell me about her personal struggle to find her beliefs, as many young people today struggle to find theirs.

Clinton believes issues outside of young people control, like the economy, limit young people's potential. Not surprisingly, Sen. Clinton felt she would be the best person to return those opportunities to young people.

*Clinton: "And I'm not only reaching out to those who are in college, but a lot of young people who are out at work, a lot of young people who are in the military, young people who are not necessarily going to be found on a college campus with a lot of disposable time and money, but who need a president who will get the economy going for them and help them afford to go to college and so many of the other concerns that people talk to me about."*

As I listened to her speak, I began to believe that she did understand what it was like to be young, and that maybe the situations teenagers go through every day aren't so foreign to her.

I couldn't help but start to think maybe she was a little cooler than I first thought. More importantly though Sen. Clinton gained my respect. Hillary Clinton is a special exception to the "cool" guidelines—she isn't stylish and her makeup is overdone. Rather, it is her patriotism, intelligence, and resolve that appeals to me.

She makes me think there is a different kind of cool that is uniquely Hillary Clinton.

For Y-Press, I'm Millie Cripe.