

***Tiramisu Vaping***  
By Tara Meddaugh  
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*Emma, a girl around 16 years old, speaks to her mother, justifying her habit of vaping. She claims it is a far less selfish habit than her mom's generation of smoking, and that her generation has made serious steps to think of others, as well as the planet around her. She makes the case that vaping is a lesser evil than what she could be doing, so she pleads with her mom to be proud of her for once.*

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EMMA

How can you possibly say that I'm selfish for vaping? I mean, I think, seriously, we're the first generation who is *not* being selfish. We're like, for real, using stainless steel thermoses which is even better than recycling. And you know, my friends and I started that anti-bullying workshop when we were 10—not for us, but for the little kids. Vaping is like—oh, it's so frustrating talking to you!—vaping is like thinking about others. You know? Like, I'm thinking about you, Mom. And I'm thinking about Lucas and even random people on the street. I'm thinking about the whole world. I mean, the whole world! I'm not polluting, Mom! I'm not giving you or kids at the park cancer. Like, your generation didn't care about that. Okay, I know, restaurants used to allow smoking and they stopped, but, I mean, this is much bigger than that. This is like, letting us be independent and try cool flavors like Tiramisu—you know I love tiramisu—but without the fat! I mean, I haven't gained any weight since I started vaping. And it's like, a healthy alternative to real drugs, because it calms down my anxiety—you know how much pressure I'm under with all this testing and soccer and Student Council and the soup kitchen and babysitting and my friends? When I vape, I can focus and I don't have to take, like, Ritalin or Prozac, which can totally mess you up. So, instead of worrying about addiction, and this lung disease, and peer pressure or whatever—can you just step back for a minute? And, I don't know, maybe be proud of me for a change?

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