

# **Self-portrait**

**A teen vision through the words of adolescents**

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## **Method: how to look at teenagers?**

### **Common risks:**

- Using our memories as measure of the nowadays adolescence;
- Comparing ages to regret the past;
- Using a prescriptive gaze;
- Looking for definitions and synthesis.

### **Recommendations:**

- Giving a phenomenological approach;
- Giving the word;
- Creating a dialogue.

### **Materials' sources:**

- 874 anonymous letters of teenagers (16-21 years) from all over Italy, written in 2014. Teenagers replied voluntarily at the invitation to write about "What you need to know about me".

## **Chap. 1 - How I do feel**

Almost every letter starts with a description of some personality's characteristics, moods, feelings, challenges, values, self-esteem.

## **Chap. 2 - What I like**

The other main theme used to describe themselves is what they like to do, their passions, interests, vocations etc.

## **Chap. 3 - What changed myself**

The transformative experiences which had the power to change them are another crucial topic in the letters.

## **Chap. 4 - What I do want from the world**

The future theme is fundamental and 'future' is most used word in the letters. In this part teenagers explained how they wish to enter and to be part of the society. They tell about dreams, project, fears and doubts.