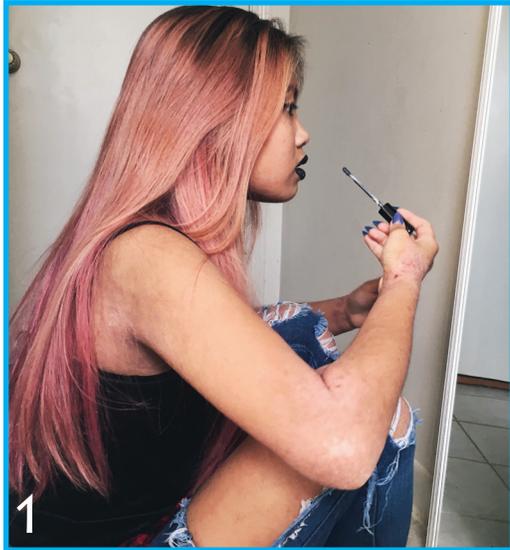


CULTURE

meets

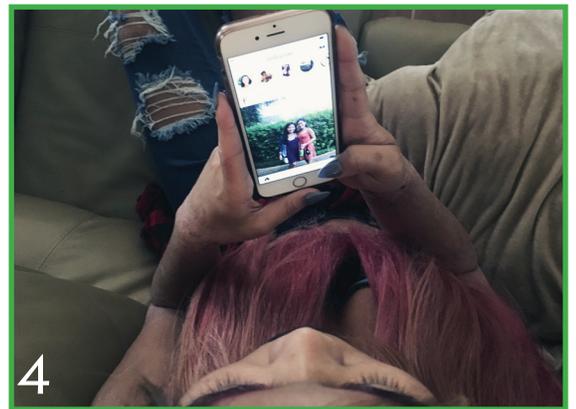
MODERN SOCIETY



It's not easy being a Vietnamese American, constantly struggling to balance both cultures and trying to fit in. A perfect example would be fifteen year old *Tiffani Tran*. She's just beginning high-school and she's having a tough time trying to figure herself out.

In today's society, *social media* has a very huge influence on young individuals. Young teens are always trying to fit in by dressing by the latest trends, having the newest technology, and following with what everyone else in modern society think is "cool".

Having traditional Vietnamese parents doesn't make anything better. They are always trying to make sure that she incorporates her culture in *everything* that she does. But how can you balance both culture and trying to fit in?

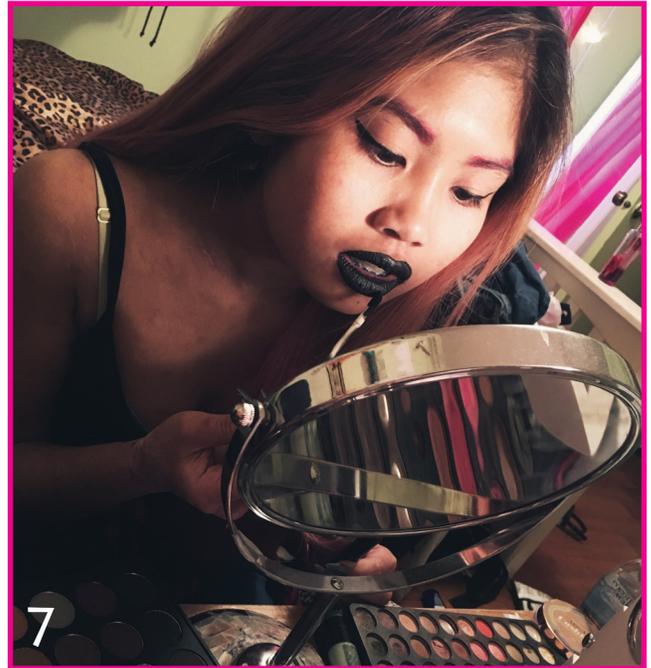
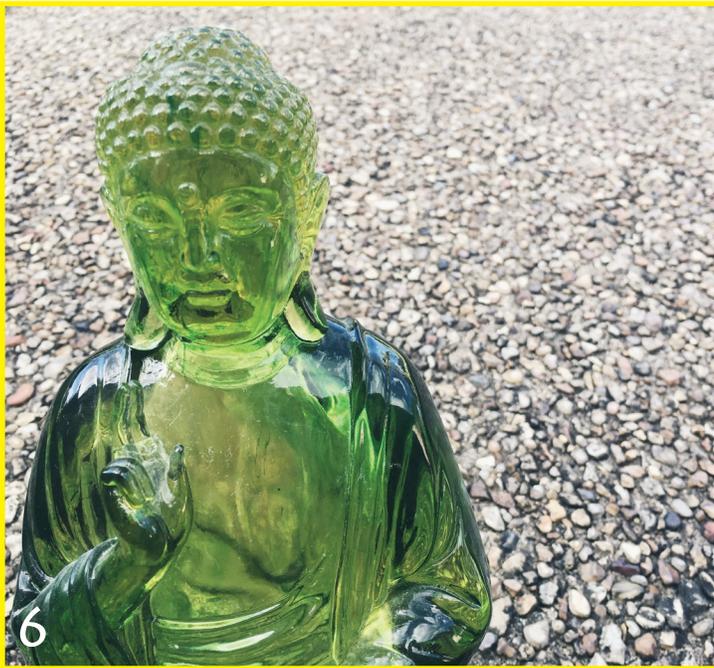


4. In modern society, almost everyone has a social media. These days children as young as eight have a social media account.

5. One significant part of Vietnamese culture is their traditional outfit which is the Vietnamese gown and optional rice hat.

1 & 2. Colored hair and different makeup has grown to be quite big in modern society, as shown as Tiffani tries to express herself.





Asian Americans / Vietnamese Americans constantly battle trying to emerge from the shadows. Tiffani tries to not fall into common *stereotypes* by incorporating her culture and mixing it with modern society's expectations. She learns how to express herself through her own types of trends and values. She begins with teaching her friends about her culture and explaining to her family that *it's okay* to mix both modern day culture with the Vietnamese values. Although balancing both may seem pretty difficult, it's actually quite easy when you have family and friends that support you through it all.

7. Using significant colors from your culture is a great way to represent your origin. It's also a good idea to introduce different types of foods and musics to your friends to allow them to get to know your culture.

8. Once you begin introducing your culture to fit into modern day expectations then everything else will fall into place and it'll become easier to balance both. Tiffani's advice for anyone who struggles with cultural and modern expectations is to just be *yourself*.