

# Is It Wrong to Photoshop Celebrities?

Three young readers go pen-to-pen with the editor of a fictional magazine



Look what Photoshop did to Harry Styles!

## Ban Photoshop From Your Magazine

Dear Ms. Summers,

We are fed up with your magazine. It's obvious to us that every photograph in *Teen World* has been Photoshopped. On this month's cover, you made Jennifer Lawrence look way skinnier than she looks in her movies. Inside, every model has flawless skin and hair. Don't you realize what this does to your readers? You're supposed to be creating a magazine to help girls feel better about themselves. But when girls look at those perfect pictures, they feel *worse*. If you think J.Law needs Photoshop, what would you think about normal girls like us?

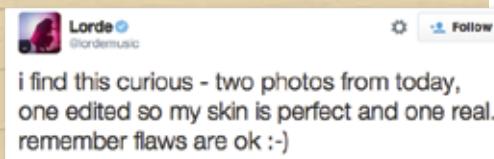
Obviously, you forget what it's like to be 13. Or maybe you never had a zit, or felt like you were too short or too big or too whatever. Otherwise, why would you give us these unrealistic ideas about beauty? Seeing how our favorite stars *really* look wouldn't make us like them less. In fact, we would like them more, because they would seem more like real people.

Of course, we know that every magazine uses Photoshop, but that doesn't make it right. And we're not the only ones who feel this way. We did some research and learned that many experts say Photoshopped pictures are harmful to young people.

So why not be the first magazine to ban Photoshop? You'd become even more popular. Celebrities would support you too. We've read that many stars hate being Photoshopped. Kate Winslet has spoken against it. So have Lady Gaga, Ashley Benson, and Troian Bellisario. It makes them feel bad to think that their real selves aren't good enough to show in magazines. They also know it hurts their fans, girls like us.

Next time we read your magazine, we want to see Ariana Grande with a pimple on her nose.

Thanks for your time,  
Cora, Katie, and Isabella



Lorde took to Twitter after she saw a retouched photo of herself.



# Don't Let Photoshop Make You Feel Bad

Dear Cora, Katie, and Isabella,

Thank you for writing to *Teen World* and sharing your concerns. Our mission is to empower young people, to inspire them to live full and meaningful lives. So we are deeply saddened that our use of Photoshop caused you to feel bad about yourselves. That was certainly not our intention.

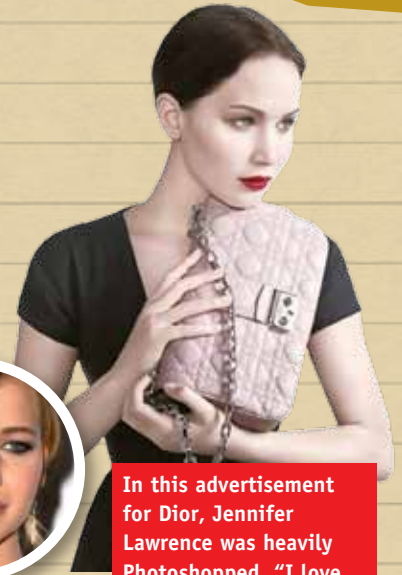
Altering images has been a standard practice for centuries. In the 1500s, Renaissance artists deliberately made the people they painted look more attractive. Some of the world's first photographers smoothed out wrinkles, slimmed waistlines, and even added people to or removed them from pictures. Why? Artists want to make pictures that are beautiful. The same is true at *Teen World*. In our magazine, we do not want to change people's appearances but rather to improve the overall quality of the photos.

You might be surprised to know that many publicists *ask* us to retouch the celebrities we feature. Sometimes the celebrities themselves demand that we "clean up" their portraits. They want us to smooth away cellulite and wrinkles and acne scars. That's because their careers depend on them looking their absolute best.

Sometimes we want to show people looking natural—imperfections and all. Other times, we want people to look glamorous. Photoshop is a tool that we use, kind of like special effects in movies. The whole point is to entertain our readers with interesting and artistic images.

I want to share a quote with you that I keep on my desk to remind me of what beauty really is. It's by a philosopher named Confucius: "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it." So look for the beauty in the world around you, in your friends, and in yourself. I bet you will find a feeling of contentment that no retouched photo can take away from you.

Sincerely,  
Judy Summers  
Editor



In this advertisement for Dior, Jennifer Lawrence was heavily Photoshopped. "I love Photoshop," J. Law said about the ad. "Of course it's Photoshop; people don't look like that."

## SCAVENGER HUNT

**Directions:** Hunt through each letter and do the following:

1. Underline the **central idea**, or **central claim**.
2. Put a star next to two pieces of **supporting evidence**.
3. Circle the **counterargument**.
4. Put a double star next to the **rebuttal**.

**Now YOU decide. Who made the stronger argument?**