

**Synopsis:** In this essay, I discussed the world of plastic surgery. Plastic surgery has been a heated debate for years, especially amongst the rich & famous. With all the images we see today. I had to question whether or not natural beauty still exists.

### Doll vs. Realistic: is Authentic Beauty Out of Style?

Authentic beauty consists of being natural. It consists of loving yourself the way you are and being able to feel comfortable in your own skin. It doesn't consist of numerous amounts of plastic surgery or tons of caked on make-up. Authentic beauty is not fake, it is real and genuine.

In the 80s and 90s, women in the music videos looked like real women. They didn't convey an image of a dolled up Barbie or have a slew of plastic surgery. They looked like women that you could see having fun on a night on the town or running errands in the city. Times have changed since the 80s and 90s. The women in the music videos no longer convey the appearance of authentic beauty. From the video vixens that are trying to make a name for themselves to the newest bombshell in rap music, Nicki Minaj, you see women in media who imitate live dolls. Mimicking women who look like this is starting to become the newest trend, if it hasn't already started to dominate the world. It is becoming a domino effect. Back in the earlier days of hip hop and R&B, women who dominated the scene such as, SWV, Total, and Salt-n-Pepa, had genuine talent that went hand-in-hand with their genuine beauty. They weren't afraid to wear their natural length hair and embrace their full figures. Being able to do that makes a woman feel like she can relate to the artist. It helped the artist feel relatable to the audiences who were watching them.

Authentic beauty is not out of style. It just happens to be rare thanks to how often it occurs in our society and how the media portrays it. The media and Hollywood is only interested in making money. We live in a consumer society and people make more money if you want to look like someone else. Unfortunately, being natural is not in this season and is not making

money. Don't get me wrong, I think Nicki Minaj is a beautiful woman and I am personally entertained by her music, but Nicki Minaj is a gimmick that contributes to helping the media and Hollywood make money. Having a doll like image will soon be out of style and Hollywood will move on to the next hot thing. It seems this day and age, everything needs to be bigger and better. For instance, women are having plastic surgery for bigger behinds and bigger breast. They're also getting nose jobs and liposuction in places that don't need to be sucked out of, but those methods of plastic surgery have been around in Hollywood for centuries. There are numerous tricks that can help a woman improve her appearance such as, implants, injections, extensions, tummy tucks... the list goes on. Celebrities and the media help to subject these tricks into women's minds as being beautiful.

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I understand everyone doesn't like Nicki Minaj or the other famous video vixens but when the only things you start to see on a daily basis are big fake breasts and big rear ends, it makes you wonder. It causes you to think about where you stand in the social part of society. It makes you wonder if your natural beauty is comparable to all of the plastic body parts these video vixens have. Producer Swizz Beats once said "anybody could recognize and spot a phony." A real man can see natural beauty. Is that really true? A man may say he likes women with natural beauty but his mind will start to wonder what Nicki Minaj's fake behind feels like.

Nicki Minaj is an entertainer. Video vixens are entertainers. Sadly enough they are also women that young girls look up to. They are women who society says it's okay to look like. At the end of the day, looks cannot take care of a home, cook meals, or raise a family. Women need to encourage their daughters to love and embrace themselves for who they are and what God gave them.