

## Schools

Across America, the large mass of kids in the middle – the ones without money, book smarts, or athletic prowess – were outsiders in their own schools. Few others cared about what they felt or believed or experienced. They were the unspecial and unpromising, looked down upon by and almost completely separated from the college-bound crowd. Life was already understood to be a game of winners and losers; they were the designated losers, and they resented it. The most consistent message these students had received was that their lives were of less value than others'. Is it so surprising that some of them find satisfaction in a politics that says, essentially, Screw 'em all?

**Atul Gawande, The New Yorker, Oct. 2, 2017**