

**Totally Like Whatever** - 2010 US c.3 min. Taylor Mali

[1.1 - Live - YouTube](#) [1.2 - Animated - YouTube](#) [The Poet's Official Website](#)

- **grammar points:** past perfect, present perfect simple & continuous, reflexive, used to, passive, my own, since/ago (error), have got to
  - **phrasal verbs:** chop down, come along
  - **idioms:** sound like, like, totally, you know?, even, cool, hip, nerd, okay?, just, on the bandwagon, nehh, bespeaks, bumper sticker, these days, "Question Authority"
- .....

In case you **hadn't realized**,  
it **has** somehow **become** uncool  
to **sound like** you know what you're talking about,  
or believe strongly in what you're, **like**, saying...

Invisible question marks and parenthetical  
(you know?)-s and (you know what I'm saying?)-s  
**have been attaching themselves** to the ends of our sentences,  
**even** when those sentences aren't, **like**, questions...  
Declarative sentences - so-called - because they **used to** (**like, you know?**),  
Declare things to be true, okay?,  
as opposed to other things that are **like totally, you know**, not?

They've **been infected by** this tragically **cool** and totally **hip** interrogative  
tone...

As if I'm saying: don't think I'm a **nerd just** because I've **like noticed** this,  
**okay?**

I have nothing personally invested in **my own** opinions...

I'm **just** like inviting you to join me **on the bandwagon** of my own uncertainty.

What **has happened to** our conviction?

Where are the limbs out on which we once walked?

**Have they been, like, chopped down** with the rest of the rain forest?  
**you know?**

Or do we have, **like**, nothing to say?

Has society **just** become so filled with these conflicting feelings of "**nehh**" . . .

That we've **just gotten** to the point where we're the most aggressively  
inarticulate generation to **come along since**, you know, a long time **ago!**

so, I implore you, I entreat you, and I challenge you:

To speak with conviction.

To say what you believe in a manner that **bespeaks** the determination with  
which you believe it.

Because contrary to the wisdom of the **bumper sticker**,

it is not enough **these days** to simply "Question Authority".

You've **got to** speak with it, too.