

TWEEN TAKE

Jeff Capanelli

INT. TALK SHOW SET

Theme music begins playing as we open on a wide shot of the set. BECKY, JESSICA H., and ASHLEY (all 12 years old, decked out in Forever 21 from head to toe), sit at a roundtable with STEPHEN A. SMITH.

BECKY

(to camera)

Hello everybody, welcome to *Tween Take*! The only daytime TV show BY tweens, FOR tweens. We come on the air every day for two hours to debate the most pressing issues currently facing tween culture. Today at the debate desk, we have Jessica H.!

JESSICA H.

(waving at camera)

Hiiiiiiiiiiiiii.

BECKY

Ashley!

Ashley blows a kiss to the camera.

BECKY (CONT'D)

And a very special guest, joining us today from ESPN's *First Take*: Stephen A. Smith!

STEPHEN A. SMITH

Good afternoon Becky, Ashley, Jessica H. It is an honor to be sitting with you ladies here today, I'm very excited to start our debate.

BECKY

All right! Our first topic will surely get some sparks flying! It's a rivalry as old as Instagram itself. Girls, Stephen A., who is better: Selena Gomez, or Ariana Grande?

ASHLEY

I'll start with this one Becky.
You're right. This is a very
classic debate. But when you really
get down to it, it's not much of a
contest. The easy answer is Ariana
Grande.

Stephen A. is taken aback. He scoffs.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Ariana is THE female vocalist of
our generation. She's a talented
singer, actress, performer, and
most importantly, she loves her
fans. Her note changes are ICONIC,
and her vocal range is SECOND. TO.
NONE. Selena fans? Well they're
just wasting their time.

STEPHEN A. SMITH

Well first of all, Ashley, I am a
guest on your show, so I will
restrain myself from unleashing on
you like I would if we were sitting
in my studio. In fact, I'll even
make a concession. You are correct,
Ariana's vocal range is superb.
BUT, this is not a question of who
can hit higher notes! The question
POSED to us today was which young
lady is BETTER, and when you look
at the TOTAL PACKAGE, the CLEAR
answer is SELENA. GOMEZ.

ASHLEY

Pffft, what do you know?! You're
like, 60 years old!

STEPHEN A. SMITH

Young lady, I am 49 years old, and
a very spry 49 years old at that.
And I'm glad you brought up
numbers. Because when we look at
the numbers, your argument gets
TORN to SHREDS. Ms. Grande has won
89 awards for her music, SELENA HAS
WON 130! Ms. Grande has a net worth
of \$35 million, SELENA IS WORTH \$65
MILLION! Ms. Grande has 110 million
followers on Instagram, SELENA HAS
123!!! SHE IS THE MOST FOLLOWED
PERSON ON THE ENTIRE PLANET!

(MORE)

STEPHEN A. SMITH (CONT'D)
AND YOU'RE CLAIMING ARIANA GRANDE
IS BETTER?!?!

ASHLEY
W-well, if you want to talk
numbers, what about this one:
50,000! That's how many people
showed up for her One Love
Manchester concert, which was
arranged in a matter of DAYS! Also,
check out these polling numbers.

A graphic from a tweet comes on screen. It is from Ashley's
twitter account. The tweet reads "RT for Selena Gomez, LIKE
for Ariana Grande".

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
How about THOSE numbers, Stephen
A.?!? Selena only got 11 retweets,
but Ariana got 45 likes!! Those
numbers don't lie!!!!

Stephen A. takes a deep breath. He chuckles to himself.

STEPHEN A. SMITH
When I agreed to come onto this
show, I thought I'd be debating
against PROFESSIONALS. What's the
name of this show? *Tween Take*? Well
producers, network executives, you
should listen up, because you might
want to rename this show AMATEUR
TAKE. ONE LOVE MANCHESTER?! You
mean the concert that also featured
the likes of COLDPLAY, KATY PERRY,
PHARRELL WILLIAMS, and a gentleman
that goes by the name of JUSTIN
BIEBER?!?! Ashley. Ashley, Ashley,
Ashley, come on. You can do better
than that. And that twitter poll?
You fail to mention that a
disproportionate number of your
twitter followers also happen to be
loyal Arianators. If I retweeted
that trash to my 3.5 Million
followers, MOST OF WHICH happen to
be Selena fans, well, let's just
say the Selena Hive would tear your
twitter account to SHREDS.

There is a long silence. Ashley begins crying.

JESSICA H.
 Idk guys, it may be an unpopular
 opinion, but I prefer Demi Lovato.

Ashley stops crying. She, Stephen A., and Becky all stare at her looking extremely upset. Stephen A. And Ashley start screaming in unison.

ASHLEY
 OH. MY. GOD. JESSICA H. THAT IS THE
 MOST EMBARRASSING THING YOU HAVE
 EVER SAID ON THIS SHOW. YOU'RE
 TELLING ME THAT DEMI LOVATO IS
 BETTER THAN ARIANA?? EWWWWW NO
 WONDER NOBODY IN CLASS EVEN LIKES
 YOU THAT IS SO MESSED UP OF YOU TO
 SAY-

STEPHEN A. SMITH
 DEMI LOVATO?!?! I HAVE BEEN SITTING
 AT DEBATE DESKS FOR YEARS, BUT THAT
 IS ONE OF THE MOST OUTLANDISH,
 ASININE, ABSURD HOT TAKES THAT HAS
 EVER ENTERED MY EAR DRUMS. THE GIRL
 IS IRRELEVANT, SHE HAS NO PLACE IN
 THIS DEBATE WHATSOEVER-

Becky starts waving her arms to calm everyone down.

BECKY
 GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS! Quit your
 bickering! You're ALL being
 embarrassing!!!

Everyone quiets down.

BECKY (CONT'D)
 Phew! Alright! Well, we have to go
 to a commercial break, but stick
 around, because we have plenty of
 more interesting debate topics
 coming up! Brad opened my Snapchat
 and I got a notification that he
 was typing, but then he NEVER
 responded! What should I do? Plus,
 are fidget spinners over, or are
 they SO over? All that, and MORE
 coming up on *Tween Take!*