How to Tell if You're Being Emotionally Manipulated by a Youth Speaker

A Check-List

☐ They begin in an ecstatic frenzy and ends in an intimate whisper.
☐ Quotes incessantly from pop-culture movies and television shows which most teens have the good sense to ignore.
☐ There's background music for the prayers.
☐ Subtle encouragement of “teen-age rebellion” by poking at “the establishment”.
☐ The speaker talks about the death of a loved one.
☐ At least one story or illustration has inappropriate sexuality, nudity, etc.
☐ Merchandise sales are part of the presentation.
☐ The speaker cries.
☐ They have you repeat after them.
☐ Five minutes after the talk is over you've forgotten the content, remembering only that you were “moved”.

Total Checks: _______  Scale:

0-2  This talk probably had some important content.
3-5  A beginner at youth conferences.
6-8  It's a good thing you have this checklist.
9-10 You've just been on an emotional roller-coaster.

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