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Limiting Beauty Pageants

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Omaha North High Magnet School 2015
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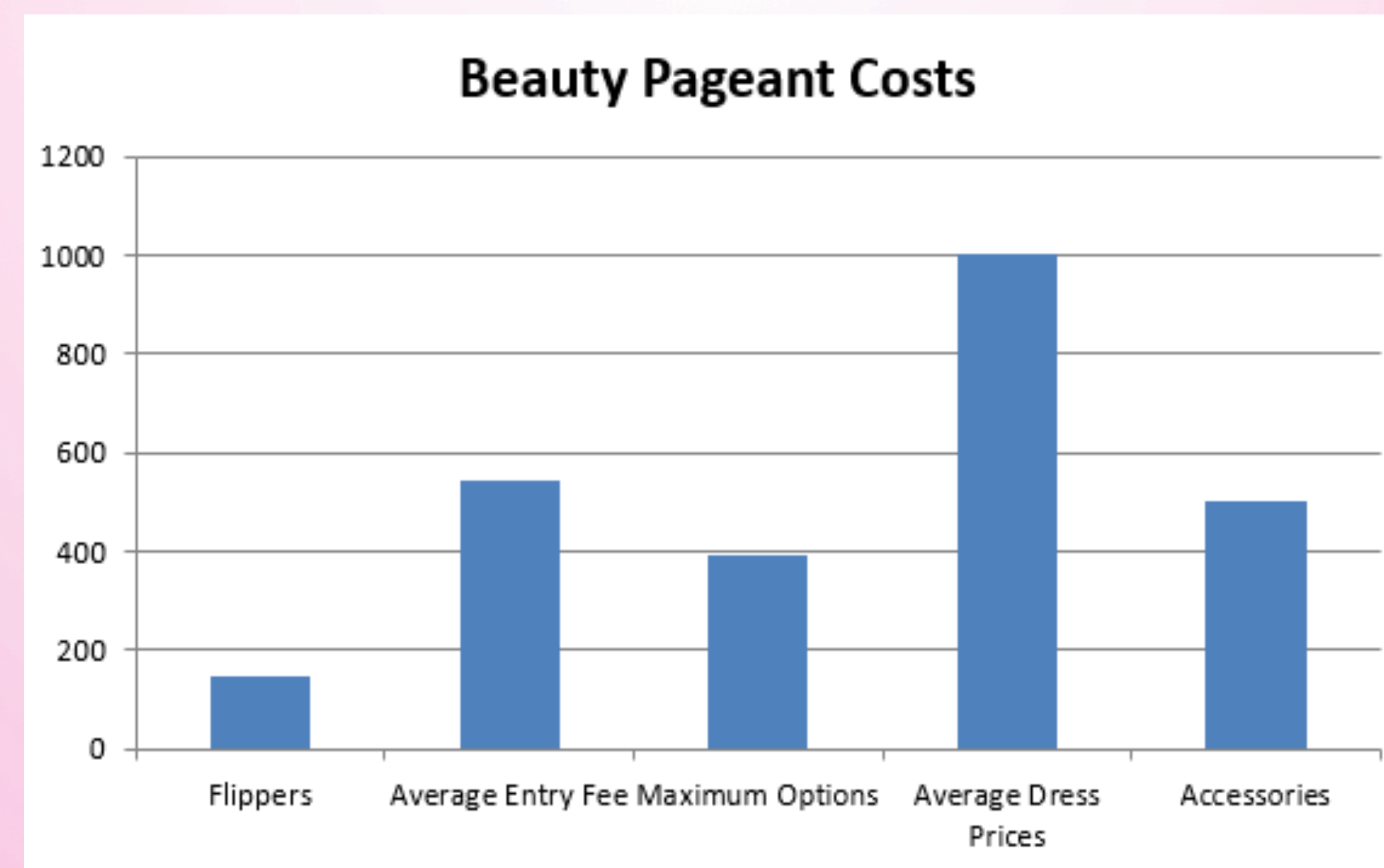
Abstract

Beauty pageants give young women a false idea of true beauty; the girls who don't win often suffer from low self-esteem. The media has glorified beauty pageants on television with shows like *Toddlers and Tiaras*. "Glitz" pageants should be banned and the age limit should be raised.

"Natural" pageants are better; they allow the girls to show their true beauty. Instead of wearing fake teeth, breast implants, hair extensions, or fake nails. Beauty pageants do have the potential to create positive role models out of young woman. "Glitz" pageants should have an age limit not only because they are ridiculously expensive, they create damaging competition among the young girls. At young ages girls are being trained to become Pageant Queens.

Key Points

- More than a quarter million girls compete every year (ABC News)
- The French Senate banned beauty pageants because it sexualizes young girls (Rubin, 2).
- Many female politicians participated in a pageant. For example, Sarah Palin was in Miss Alaska before she became mayor (Woolf, 1).
- All pageants should be "Natural" and focus on the girl's true beauty and talents.
- Almost 2.5 million women participate in roughly a hundred thousand different pageants each year in the United States.
- Pageants supplies needed and makeup have an outrageous average cost of \$3, 703.
- When done right, pageants are a great way for young women to gain a lot of scholarship money, and temporary fame to make a positive difference in the world.



Conclusion & Discussion

Entering a beauty pageant should focus on positive advances. The only way that will be achieved is if older more mature girls are the only ones participating in these pageants.

Beauty pageants must move society forward not backward, like the Miss America and Miss USA pageants; they are for young women who are established and want to become positive role models for success in the community. passion, and giving back to the community.

Pageant coaching can run anywhere between \$150 and \$300 an hour with immersive weekend courses costing even more. Many parents pay a fortune to put their children in pageants. I think they should take the beauty out of the pageant, like professor Stoeltje said, "while the ideal woman of our community or our country is expected to be intelligent, she is still expected to appeal to the males who will be looking at her, whistling at her; she represents the embodiment of female power- restricted by male taste."

Future Research

I would like to do further research on the adult lives of the *Toddlers in Tiaras* girls. This research would give even more evidence of why having girls participate in beauty pageants at a young age can negatively effect them

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