

Youth Perceptions of Friendship Loyalty: Uncovering Psychological Components Through Narratives




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Friendship has long been recognized as one of the most influential developmental contexts...” (p.2) is strong, but the introduction would benefit from a clearer problem statement at the end of the paragraph that explicitly identifies the research gap.

The table is rich but difficult to read due to long text in “Concepts (Open Codes).” Consider restructuring it in APA style with concise phrases and clearer alignment of categories, subcategories, and codes.

The description could benefit from a short theoretical link to existing loyalty theories (e.g., protective loyalty) to strengthen integration with literature.

The quote “I didn’t know whether to stand by my old friend or my new group” is insightful. Please expand analysis here to show how digital peer groups specifically complicate loyalty, which ties to your claim of cultural/digital relevance.

The paragraph on digital loyalty mentions online presence and responsiveness but remains surface-level. Consider integrating literature on cyber-victimization or digital intimacy to strengthen the argument.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description “Best friendships may dissolve due to betrayal, lack of reciprocity, or developmental transitions...” could be strengthened by citing additional European studies, since the current study is based in Germany.

The sentence “Given these gaps, the present study seeks to investigate youth perceptions of friendship loyalty...” is important but could be expanded into specific research questions or objectives to frame the narrative inquiry more explicitly.

The sentence “Sometimes I’m scared she’ll leave, and I’ll lose that loyalty. It makes me cling more.” suggests potential maladaptive aspects of loyalty. Consider explicitly discussing this duality to balance positive and negative psychological outcomes.

The statement “Together, these findings contribute to a deeper understanding...” is too general. Please reframe to highlight the unique contribution of narrative inquiry in comparison to prior survey-based loyalty studies.

The sentence “Adolescents in the current study articulated betrayal as one of the most painful social experiences” could be deepened by linking to attachment theory or developmental trauma frameworks.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.