

### Abstract

This research is an ethnography on the microculture of rock climbers and the particular behaviors of the members of this culture. Rock climbers are thought of as independent and daring. I decided to dig deeper and write about the associated lifestyle of rock climbers and the actual sport with focus on their diet, hybrid personalities, rules, and competitions, to break all the stereotypes. I gathered my informants on the campus of Georgia State University: a former president of the rock climbing club and an applied linguistics student who climbed for a hobby. After interviewing each of my informants twice for long periods of time, I transcribed all the interviews, gathered and organized information, and developed taxonomies to analyze. Lastly, I tried rock climbing out for myself wrote down my first experience into my paper. My results are that rock climbers are concerned with nature and their bodies so their ideal diet is organic but with their average social status and the expenses of being healthy, they mostly strive for non-processed or vegetarian. Their personalities are a fusion between athletes and hippies, as they have a strong sense of goals and team work, a bit of competitiveness and persistence, and also a love for nature and peace. Rock climbing as a sport is full of rules about safety and some unspoken ethical rules that members of the culture recognize. Safety issues are black and white and as long as you do not “goof off” the sport is completely safe. The knowledge that you have kept to the rules and everyone is looking out for one another is a charm that allows you to enjoy the adrenaline rush of the sport. The competitions are therefore more of a social event where everyone is cheered on, people have successes, and all are rewarded. I conclude that rock climbers are not independent adventurers who take risks but a relaxed group of supportive people who take care of themselves and each other.

*Keywords:* Rock Climbing, Extreme Sports, Hybrid Personalities, Diet, Explicit Safety Rules, Unspoken Ethical Rules, Rock Climbing Language Taxonomies, Competitions