**The Search Results**

As a result of my research, I have discovered that people around the world will go to extremes to escape society’s judgment of them. It seems that America is not the only country in the world where one’s outward appearance is being manipulated to fit what society considers “normal.”

Skin bleaching is a growing epidemic, but it can have negative side effects for the user. According to the article “Skin Bleaching a Growing Problem in Jamaica Slums,” impoverished Jamaicans are turning to the black-market to purchase skin-altering creams. Dermatologists say these products can cause harm to the skin: stretch marks, yellow tinting, allergic reactions, mercury poisoning, disfigurement, and blemishes (McFadden). It is obvious these creams have an array of negative side effects; however, users hope the cream will help them fit into a higher social class. Like Jamaica, skin bleaching has also become a popular practice in India. According to the article “In India, Fairness Is a Growth Industry,” many dark skinned men are hoping a “magic cream” will change their status in life. This is because “...fair skin has long been a symbol of affluence and status...” (Wax). In India it is the women who bring a dowry to the marriage. The more affluent and successful a man appears on the outside, the more likely they will marry into wealth. A lighter skin color may be their only ticket to an improved life. Society creates pressures for people to conform, but is acceptance from others worth body manipulation, which could result in permanent damage?

I have added an additional source in my first AXES paragraph. It is in red. Notice how I have returned to the X and E again to bring in my source about skin bleaching in India.