

## EMO vs GOTH

Both are based around styles of music - emotive hardcore and gothic (death) rock. The styles of music are extremely different with bands like Jimmy Eat World, The Juliana Theory and Thursday representing emo and Bauhaus, SexGang Children and the Sister of Mercy representing goth. Of course, those sounds have definitely influenced and trickled into the mainstream resulting in music that, while using emo or gothic characteristics, is generally not considered emo or gothic: Dashboard Confessional (emo), Manson and Evanescence (gothic).

Additionally, the groups that tend to listen to this type of music often characterize certain stereotypes, thus emo and gothic have both become terms to identify certain subcultures.

Emo *people* are generally described as looking this way:

- tight jeans on males and females
- long fringe (bangs) brushed to one side of the face or over one or both eyes
- dyed black, straight hair
- tight t-shirts (sometimes short sleeved) which often bear the names of rock bands (or other designer shirts)
- studded belts
- belt buckles
- canvas sneakers or skate shoes or other black shoes (often old and beaten up)

Early emo fashion was not as it exists today and used to include things like straight, unparted hair, tightly fitting sweaters, button-down shirts and work jackets.

Emo, though it is short for emotive hardcore, is often mistakenly thought to be short for "emotional" and many emotional behaviours have become associated with the subculture such as being emotional, sensitive, shy, introverted, or angsty. It is also associated with depression, self-injury, and suicide. Emo has recently evolved into a type of personality. Emo people are for the most part people who think they're misunderstood by everyone, ridiculed by everyone, and hated by everyone. Or, they're people who are just overly emotional. Emo people have generally thought about suicide many times, but never really attempt it. Many people stereotype emos to be a lot of things they aren't. For example: that they cut themselves all the time. This is false, because although they think about death frequently, they ARE NOT suicidal. They cut to relieve pain. Also: that they have mohawks, tons of piercings, etc. That is not an example of emo. That is completely goth. And, emo's generally don't hate their parents. they just hate everyone else.

**Goth fashion** is stereotyped as a dark, sometimes morbid, eroticized fashion and style of dress. Typical gothic fashion includes dyed black hair, dark eyeliner, black fingernails, black period-styled clothing; goths may or may not have piercings. Styles are often borrowed from the Elizabethan, Victorian or medieval period and often express Catholic or other religious imagery such as crucifixes or ankhs. The extent to which goths hold to this style varies amongst individuals as well as geographical locality, though virtually all Goths wear some of these elements.

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## History

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The first waves of Emo started in 1985 when veterans of the music scene in Washington decided to break away a form a new genre of music. Goth finds its origins in the 1970's from English Punk rock.

## Behaviour

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Emo rock is associated with being emotional, sensitive, shy, introverted, or angsty. It is also associated with depression, self-injury, and suicide. Goth's are associated with dressing in All Black and are introverts who like to stay secluded.

## Music Genre

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They both belong to the punk rock scene. Emo focuses on emotional expression, and abstract waves of sonic dissonance. Gothic rock as a genre of rock music involves expression of emotional themes through introverted/extroverted methods in music, art, media, literature, fashion, poetry, etc.

## Style

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Emo belongs to hardcore rock and [Indie rock](#) style while Gothic Rock is a form of punk rock, [glam punk](#) and [post punk](#). Emo rockers preach release of primal energy with abstract and chaotic sub structures while Goth are recognized by emphasis on Darkness in their tone, dress, hair dyes, make up, emotion, etc.

## Expression

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The emo hardcore scene focused on personal expression in a manner that also derives from poetry such as [Allen Ginsberg's](#) "Howl". The Goth subculture is related often to black magic, witchcraft, and vampires popularly, though this may be more of a stereotype than fact, as evidenced by "Christian Goth". A good example of Gothic art and lifestyle is the UK punk and "Alien Sex Fiend".

## Culture Influences and thinking

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Emo rockers are culturally critiques of society based on punk philosophy, post-punk, and other movements in art, music, literature, etc. Goth rockers, on the other hand, have a wide eyed and irrational approach and often are known for their inquiry into the nature of death, fantasy and fiction.

## Prominent in

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Emo originated from Washington DC and other parts of USA while Goth is followed in small pockets across the globe.

## Goth Religion

There is no set belief system for Goths, although many seem to be agnostic. A person's religion and his or her gothic involvement have little to no affect on each other. Christians, atheists, Jews, agnostics, Satanists, pagans, and so forth are all represented within Goth. While there is an

incredibly wide variety of religious beliefs and views, most Goths do not follow any sort of organized religion. Their personal spiritual beliefs are of a private nature.

Gothic is a fairly open-minded culture when it comes to exploring anything that is "not of the norm." Religion is no exception. Many Goths are likely to explore alternative religions and forms of spirituality rather than following a dominant organized religion. Some find paganism and Wicca to be appealing. Goths are often called Satanists because of their bizarre or dark appearance. There are some Satanists who are also Goth, but Satanists can be found in any random group of people. Satanism and the occult are extremely complex belief systems with as many differences in beliefs as Christianity. This is an area that creates the greatest amount of confusion and misinformation. Satanism as a documented religion, such as Anton LaVey's Church of Satan, is almost nothing like most people's concept of Satanism. Satanists are a *very small* percentage of Goths, and Goths are an *extremely small* percentage of Satanists.

In 1992, the FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime published an extensive report by Kenneth Lanning, Supervisory Special Agent, entitled *Satanic, Occult, Ritualistic Crime: A Law Enforcement Perspective*. Excerpts from this study may help clarify some misunderstanding about satanism. This information also relates to the misunderstandings surrounding Goth:

"The fact is that far more crime and child abuse has been committed by zealots in the name of God, Jesus, and Mohammed than has ever been committed in the name of Satan. Many people don't like this statement, but few can argue with it... and this is what Goth 'religion' is based upon.

After all the hype and hysteria is put aside, the realization sets in that most satanic/occult activity involves the commission of NO crimes, and that which does, usually involves the commission of relatively minor crimes... It is easy to blame involvement in satanism and the occult for behaviors that have complex motivations. A teenager's excessive involvement in Satanism and the occult is usually a symptom of a problem and not the cause of a problem. Blaming Satanism for a teenagers' vandalism, theft, suicide or even act of murder is like blaming a criminal's offenses on his tattoos: both are often signs of the same rebelliousness and lack of self-esteem that contribute to the commission of crimes. "Most teenagers involved in fantasy role-playing games, heavy metal music, or Satanism and the occult are going through a stage of adolescent development and commit no significant crimes. The teenagers who have more serious problems are usually those from dysfunctional families or those who have poor communications within their families. Those troubled teenagers turn to Satanism and the occult to overcome a sense of alienation, to obtain power, or to justify their antisocial behaviour. For these teenagers, it is the symbolism, not the spirituality, that is important. It is either the psychopathic or the oddball, loner teenager who is most likely to get into serious trouble. Extreme involvement in the occult is a symptom of a problem, not the cause. This is not to deny, however, that Satanism and the occult are negative influences for a troubled teenager. But to hysterically warn teenagers to avoid this 'mysterious, powerful, and dangerous' thing called Satanism will drive some teenagers right into it. Some rebellious teenagers will do whatever will most shock and outrage society in order to flaunt their rejection of adult norms...  
<http://www.gothicsubculture.com/fbi.php>