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ELA per. 78

11/29/16

Around the world, the upcoming generations are using social media. With the growing trend many of the older generations are worried that new generations will not develop social skills. Many articles have been written on this subject including, Teenage Social Media Butterflies May Not Be Such a Bad Idea by Melissa Healy, Antisocial Networking? By Hilary Stout, the college study named Use of social media by college students; Relationship to communication and self-concept by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu, and the infographic designed by Scott Jacobs. Social media is growing every day, teenagers along with many use it on a daily basis, the question is if teenagers are missing out. No, teenagers are not missing out, many teens still prefer in-person communication, they just use it as a way to communicate with friends for a longer period of time, and social media helps many teens develop social skills.

First off, most teenagers favor in-person communication opposed to communication online. For example in the infographic Jacobs' illustrates, "almost two-thirds still prefer in-person conversation to all other communication options". So why, exactly is Stout saying kids are less interested in face-to-face communication? In contrast, social media is just another alternative for when face-to-face communication is not possible. Also supporting that many still prefer in-person communication, are Sponcil and Gitimu, "According to the 96 students surveyed, 77% prefer face to face communication over communication via the internet". I myself agree I use social media the most during the summer as it helps me keep in touch with my friends as we no longer can arrange to meet face to face but by no means does this mean I prefer to chat online rather than in person

sometimes it is just the only way possible. By the looks of it, Stout did not look at the facts and just stated her opinion. The facts clearly state teenagers prefer in-person communication opposed to social media.

Similarly, social media is just another way to communicate.

Disagreeing with Scout, chatting on social media is almost identical to talking on the phone. This is supported by Healy, in her article, she states how teens are doing the same thing their parents used to do when they were teens the phone calls were just exchanged for texts. Just like chatting on the phone, social media also helps teenagers to be in touch with their friends for a longer period of time. Stout goes on to say that exchanges on social media are more superficial. In disagreement with her, Healy states, "Adolescents are largely using social networking sites to keep in touch with friends they already know not to strangers". This shows that friends that do interact on social media are not superficial as they have no reason to be, it is just like talking on the phone. Therefore, social media is just another way to communicate when face-to-face communication is not available.

In addition, teenagers on social media are still developing the social skills they need. Stout also stated teenagers social skills were decaying. In contrast, Haley states, "Ultimately, it seems, the digital world is simply a new and perhaps more multidimensional place to conduct the age-old work of adolescence—forming identities separate from those of parents". This shows, that teenagers are still developing important social skills such as forming separate identities from parents. Another quote that denied her claim is from the college study, "These websites create new ways of communication with friends and family and also influence individual's self-concept". This shows that teenagers are gaining self-concept, which is also an important social skill. While others

might argue that social media can just lead to cyberbullying, with one click of a button the mean comments can be taken away and may still experience bullying in real life outside of social media. Accordingly, teenagers are still developing important social skills.

Ultimately, social media is not harming teenagers because many still prefer in-person communication, it is just another way to communicate with friends for a longer period, and teenagers are still developing social skills. This topic is important because social media is growing at a constant rate, by having multiple opinions on this subject we learn more as a society.