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English 521

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The Social Media Playground

Once upon a time, friend circles were based on face to face communication. Today, social media has created a gateway to expand who has intimate knowledge of our lives through a few simple clicks. As a result, many educational jurisdictions are implementing “appropriate curriculum content in the area of internet safety for grades K-12” (Vander Broek 171). With media exposure occurring at a young age, safe social media skills, including responsible use of social networking sites, identifying deceptive communication and reporting illegal activities, should be taught in schools.

Because we live in a technology driven society, the desire to use technology is fostered at early ages. Toddlers understand the concept of swiping the screen and children plead with parents to buy them tablets and even cell phones. As for teens, Melanie Hempe, an RN and founder of Families Managing Media, states that junior high is the worst time for youth to have access to social media because the brain development allows for high risk taking and low impulse control (Bednar 28). This makes it difficult to evaluate credibility perception and avoid bandwagon trends via social media outlets (“Source is Key to Credibility in Social Media Messaging”).

Works Cited

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Article in an Anthology

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Gladwell, Malcolm. "Social Media Fail to Incite True Activism." *The Global Impact of Social Media: Current Controversies*. edited by Dedria Bryfonski, Greenhaven Press, 2012, pp. 95-105.

Encyclopedia

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"Social Media." *World Book*. 2012 ed.

Website ****Note: If author is not provided, simply skip it and start with the "Name of Article"**.

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YouTube Video

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