

## Social Media, a New Beginning

Does social media define our culture? Social Media are websites that allow users to create and share information or to engage in social networking. There are many types of social media that include Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Tik tok, Twitter, YouTube and more. But do we all use social media in the same way? In my immediate circle I know people such as my friends, family, extended family and teachers use social media on a daily basis. Although it's pretty popular in my immediate community, I've noticed age determines what app is used more. for instance my parents and older users ( 30+) tend to use Facebook more often, compared to my age (12 or 13) group and older teens tend to use Instagram and Snapchat. We all seem to be connected with social media, however favor different applications. People even use social media so much some would even consider it as their entire life.

Social Media can and is used in both positive and negative ways. have noticed how social media has negatively affected me such as bullying, misinterpretations, body image, false advertisement and exaggerations and others. A personal story of mine, this summer social media was used to spread gossip about me on Snapchat. My friend back then confronted me on the situation which was that I revealed a secret that a former

friend had told me, and when I tried to explain, I continued to be misunderstood as words on a screen lack tone of voice, body language, facial expressions etc. My friend misinterpreted what I was trying to say and the situation just got worse. It wasn't until we talked in person were we able to resolve our situation.

Although social media is a platform for lots of negativity, I choose to take advantage of the positive networking, news and other communications. Through social media, such as Facebook, Messenger, and Snapchat, I am able to stay in contact with family from out of town, I post and read positive quotes, I am updated with news and love seeing pictures of friends and family. I find it useful to express myself in a positive way. Ways that social media can help build community and influence others in a positive way include creating awareness, spreading world wide news such as deaths, Amber alerts, and other newly and updates events. Also community gatherings, it can also be helpful for people who have mental health, they can use social Media as a way to alert people and get help. A good example, includes the neighborhood garden my grandmothers has which is communicated through social media or set up neighborhood meetings and events.

Yes, social media can be used in positive and negative ways depending on the way you look at it, but it just depends on the person such as age groups, influences and others. By looking at her the negative things such as cyber bullying which is a very known conflict on social media, and the positive things such as communication and

expressing feelings in positive ways. We come back to our main question does social media define our culture. I think that social media does define us... a lot of the things we do today and know today come for social media and he helps us chose who we want to be as a person. I think that's if we do continue to look at the positive things and stay from the negative we can change our views on life. So you should take me advice so that we can lead others in a positive direction.