

Support Social Media

Social Media is blamed for ruining young teens communication skills but is social media even bad at all? “Teenage Social Media Butterflies May Not Be Such a Bad Idea” by Mellissa Healy and “Antisocial Networking?” by Hillary Stout both have some points that social media is not affecting teens negatively. Teenagers through the ages of 8-18 spend a lot of time on social media. Most spend up to 7 and a half hours every day. Most parents think social media is hurting teens which leads to the question, is social media affecting teenagers? Social media is useful because it helps teens develop technological skills, promote social skills, and develop higher self-confidence.

First of all, social media gives kids better technological skills. Nowadays kids use technology almost all the time. In the past kids didn't need computers as much, now, they need them almost all the time. The future will have more technological use everywhere. This is why it is important for young kids to use social media. For example, in Mellissa Healy's article, she states, "The digital world is creating new opportunities for youth to grapple with social norms, to explore interests, develop technical skills, and experiment with new forms of self expression." In the future more and more technology will be used so developing technological skills would be very important. As they got older young adults would type faster as they got older, use computers more efficiently, and communicate with workers more. They would also be better adapted. For instance, according to Mellissa Healy's article it says, "In one study 86% of 13 and 14 year olds that interacted on social media grew up to their 20's still being on social media but

were better adjusted.” This is wonderful because as kids get older they will start to use social media better. Some kids spend too much time on social media getting distracted and not doing homework so some rough experiences as kids will help them use social media proportionately so that teens get all of their homework done and still have free time to use social media. As teenagers get older and learn from experiences, social media won’t affect them as much. Social media allows kids to be better with technology and they will be better prepared for the future.

Furthermore, social media is beneficial because it helps kids be less shy. Some kids are shy and social media may help them with that problem. Social media may help them develop social skills needed for teens to communicate more with others. In page five of “Antisocial Networking?” by Hillary Stout it says, “Evan who is 14, is shy and introverted.” They later claim that, “Mr. Wilson suggested that Evan sign up and give it a try: The other day he was pleased to find Evan chatting through Facebook with a girl from his former school.” Social media was helping Evan become less shy. Talking to the girl on Facebook is already an improvement for Evan. If he texted a lot longer he will be chatting with lots of people which will help him talk more at school, at parties, even in the future when he has a job. Later on in the article, Mr. Wilson says, “I’m thinking Facebook has for the most part been beneficial to my sons.” Most parents don’t trust social media because it is something new to them and unexplored but if they understood what Mr. Wilson knew parents would agree that social media affecting teens lives in a positive way and not in a negative way. Despite what other people are saying, social media does help develop social skills and kids do become less shy.

Thirdly, social media is helping kids rather than hurting them. Social media is known to hurt kids self confidence which can later lead to depression but again, in Mellissa Healy’s article

she states,” In fact, kids most likely to spend lots of time on social media sites are not the least well-adjusted, but the psychologically healthiest, suggests an early, but accumulating body of research.” Using social media boosts teens self confidence by helping with socialization, by enhancing connectivity with peers and friends, and by allowing teens to connect their lives with others. To further prove this point, Mellissa Healy states,” Far from hampering adolescents social skills or putting them in harm’s way as many parents have feared, electronics appear to be the path by which kids today develop emotional bonds, their own identities, and an ability to communicate and work with others.” Using social media allows teenagers to socially express their emotions online rather than in person. It has become a big part of communication among young adolescents. Some people actually meet online and learn more about who they are. Social media can keep a long distance relationships going through video calls and text messaging. Social media is credited for affecting teens in a negative way, but in the contrary, it is helping teenagers.

In conclusion, social media is the future. There are many technological advancements to come and being ready will be very useful. Social media is useful because it helps teens develop technological skills, promote social skills, and develop higher self-confidence. It is important for people to agree because if parents try to stop teens, then the parents will just be affecting the teenager’s future. Think about it, many jobs require technological skills, communication skills, and great attitude and confidence. Social media is very important to the world’s future.