

Excerpted from the following text:

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Teens, Social Media, and Privacy

By [Mary Madden](#), [Amanda Lenhart](#), [Sandra Cortesi](#), [Urs Gasser](#), [Maeve Duggan](#), [Aaron Smith](#) and [Meredith Beaton](#)

...Teens are sharing more information about themselves on social media sites than they did in the past.

Teens are increasingly sharing personal information on social media sites, a trend that is likely driven by the evolution of the platforms teens use as well as changing norms around sharing. A typical teen's MySpace profile from 2006 was quite different in form and function from the 2006 version of Facebook as well as the Facebook profiles that have become a hallmark of teenage life today. For the five different types of personal information that we measured in both 2006 and 2012, each is significantly more likely to be shared by teen social media users on the profile they use most often.

- 91% post a **photo of themselves**, up from 79% in 2006.
- 71% post their **school name**, up from 49%.
- 71% post the **city or town where they live**, up from 61%.
- 53% post their **email address**, up from 29%.
- 20% post their **cell phone number**, up from 2%.

In addition to the trend questions, we also asked five new questions about the profile teens use most often and found that among teen social media users:

- 92% post their **real name** to the profile they use most often.
- 84% post their **interests**, such as movies, music, or books they like.
- 82% post their **birth date**...

Retrieved from: <http://www.pewinternet.org/2013/05/21/teens-social-media-and-privacy/>

Use with: *Teens, Social Media, and Privacy* from the Pew Research Internet Project

Evidence	Analysis	Relevance

Teenagers and social networking – it might actually be good for them (Adapted)

Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/oct/05/teens-social-networking-good-for-them>

Directions: Listed below are strategies you can use to help you better analyze the text. Write your notes in the “Notes” column. Underline or highlight text associated with your notes.

- Write down the main idea of a paragraph.
- Rewrite a section in your own words.
- Make any inferences.
- Use context clues to define unknown words or write ideas for what a word might mean.
- Record ideas or questions you have about the text you want to share with others.
- Write any reactions to the text.

Text	Notes
<p>Teenagers and social networking – it might actually be good for them (Adapted)</p> <p>¶ 1 I asked a teenage girl how often she texts. “250 times a day, or something,” she tells me. Shocking!</p> <p>¶ 2 The digital lives of students are under weekly attack. Novelist Jonathan Franzen argued in a <i>Guardian</i> essay that online socializing created a shallow, trivial culture. He said it made kids unable to socialize in person. American comedian Louis CK said he would not give his daughters cellphones. He thought they would not develop empathy for others. Scientist and writer Susan Greenfield warned that kids would live only in an online world and become detached from the real world.</p> <p>¶ 3 As a parent of two young boys, I worry about these issues. You don’t have to be a parent to worry about the effect of technology on young people. Newspapers talk about online addictions and the aggression caused by violent video games. These stories do not tell the whole story of everyday teenage behavior: online chat, texting, surfing, and other areas of online life.</p>	

¶ 4 Franzen feared that young people were becoming emoticon-addled¹ zombies who could not connect, think, or make eye contact. Is this true?

¶ 5 I don't think so. The girl who said she texted 250 times a day is an extreme case. I included her to startle you. Two other girls said they only text 10 times a day. One girl was a Facebook 'refusenik'. She said, "I'm all Instagram, pictures of what I'm doing in the city, with my friends. We're visual people."

¶ 6 A few of the young people I interviewed used Snapchat, the app that lets you send a picture or text that is destroyed after one viewing, like a secret message. One young person's phone was filled with charming and goofy emoticons. Another said, "I'm a skilled writer. People sometimes misunderstand tone, so you have to be precise." My interviews matched research. Fewer than 20% of kids send more than 200 texts a day. Approximately 31% send 20 texts or fewer.

¶ 7 New technologies always concern older generations. It has more to do with adults' fears than teenagers' lives. In the 1930s, parents worried about the hold radio had on children. In the '80s, the Sony Walkman did the same.

¶ 8 The facts about today's digital activity are more positive than you might think. Social scientists who study teens have found digital use to be inventive and possibly beneficial. This is true for teens' social lives as well as their education. Amanda Lenhart of the Pew Research Centre found kids who texted the most were also the ones most likely to spend face-to-face time with friends. One type of socializing doesn't replace the

¹ Emoticon: Digital symbol to express emotion. Example 😊 Addled: Confused or bewildered.

other. It contributes to it. Lenhart also found that social networking decreased as teens got older.

¶ 9 Rebecca Eynon, from the Oxford Internet Institute, studied British teens over three years. She found they adjusted their online behavior as they learned new communication skills.

¶ 10 Parents are wrong to worry kids don't care about privacy. Kids spend hours tweaking Facebook settings and using quick-delete sharing tools like Snapchat. They also post pictures on Instagram, discuss them with friends, and then delete them.

¶ 11 Sometimes kids do use poor judgment. They make mistakes. Sometimes the mistakes are serious ones. Learning how to behave online is a new social skill. Research says cyber-bullying might not be as bad as some have said. A Pew Centre study said only 15% of teens said someone had been mean or cruel to them in the last 12 months.

¶ 12 Several Pew Centre surveys found teachers say kids use too much casual language and 'text-speak' in writing. It said kids don't have much patience for long readings or complex assignments. But a Stanford study that looked at freshman writing papers from 1917 to today found the errors were identical. The length of essays has increased over six times. They are no longer 'what I did this summer' essays. They are arguments with evidence. Why? Computers have increased students' abilities to research, find different points of view, and write more smoothly.

¶ 13 Fewer kids might be avid book readers than they were 30-40 years ago. A literacy expert, Wendy Griswold, stated that only 20% were heavy readers then. She blamed cable television rather than the

Internet for students' decreased interest in pleasure reading.

¶ 14 The digital world gives students more opportunities to become literate, to be creative, and to publish their ideas to the world. Kids push themselves harder when they write for a larger audience. Mills College researcher Joseph Kahne found that teens that participated online in fan and hobby sites were also more likely to volunteer. The same does not hold true for teens that only use Facebook.

¶ 15 You could argue that parents should encourage their kids to spend less time on Facebook and more on sites devoted to their interests. Tavi Gevinson is a 17 year-old student who founded and edits *Rookie*, a site with articles for and about young women. She said that online socializing is “the opposite of isolation – it’s all about connection. I’ve made some of my closest friends online, through blogging communities.”

¶ 16 Another problem of high online usage could be student distraction. Studies also show students sometimes don’t check the validity of online information used in research. Too much time online can also affect homework and sleep. Parents still need to set boundaries. Parents should also model good online habits. Everyone should know that moderation is the key.

¶ 17 Tavi Gevinson admits there is a dark side to the online world. But she sees advantages. “For a lot of people my age, it’s not like we meet online and only talk online. The goal is to meet in person and to forge² that connection.”

² To form or make, especially by concentrated effort

ELA Grade 6 Writing Assessment Evidence-Based Questions

Directions:

Answer the questions below on a separate sheet of lined paper. You may use this sheet to make any notes or draft your response. You may refer to the reading passages and your graphic organizers to help you answer the questions.

1. Why does the author of *'Teenagers and social networking...'* begin this piece with so much evidence against teen overuse of social media? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.
2. In *Teenagers and social networking...*, Clive Thompson states in the fourth paragraph, "Franzen feared that young people were becoming emoticon-addled³ zombies who could not connect, think, or make eye contact. Is this true?" How does Thompson use this zombie image to advance his point of view on adults' perspective of teens and digital media? How does ending this paragraph with a question set up the reader for the next paragraph? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.
3. Some parents or adults might be concerned with teens' investment of time in social media activities. Explain whether these concerns are valid or not and why you take this position. Cite evidence from the text to support your response.
4. In the final paragraph of *Teenagers and social networking...* teenager Tavi Gervinson states, "For a lot of people my age, it's not like we meet online and only talk online. The goal is to meet in person and to forge⁴ that connection." Some people might be concerned about safety issues. Explain your position on this issue. What is the writer's position?
5. What conclusions does the author draw about the benefits and risks of social media?

³ Emoticon: Digital symbol to express emotion. Example 😊 Addled: Confused or bewildered.

⁴ To form or make, especially by concentrated effort.

ELA Grade 6 Writing Assessment Writing Task

Directions:

You will have 50 minutes to respond to the prompt below in writing. Use your graphic organizer, evidence-based questions, and/or other notes to inform your writing. You may take notes on this paper but you should write your entire response on lined paper.

Writing Prompt

The use of social media and digital communication is relatively recent. New forms are being introduced continually. Existing forms are changing rapidly. We have research that tells us how young people use social media and other forms of digital communication. We do not have research on how it will affect them in their future lives.

You have read an anchor text and a supplemental text, engaged in analysis of the texts using graphic organizers, analyzed data on social media usage, engaged in small and whole group discussions focused on the texts, and answered constructed response questions. Now you will **write an argumentative essay** in which you answer the following prompt:

How concerned should parents and other adults be about the level of teen connection to social media? Not at all concerned, extremely concerned, or somewhat concerned?

Be Sure To:

- Refer to both texts and include supporting evidence from both
- Include relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotes or other information
- Use appropriate transitions
- Use precise language and vocabulary to inform or explain your topic
- Establish and maintain a formal style
- Provide a concluding section that follows from and supports your explanation

Analyze Development of Ideas Graphic Organizer

What do the adults say in the text?	What do teenagers say?	What does the research say?
What is my position on what the adults say?	What is my position on what teenagers say?	What is my position on what the research says?