

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Off-Site Instruction -- (10 pts)

## Day 8

### Analyzing an Informational Text

Reread the magazine article "Social Media for Teenagers: Threat or Asset" and answer the following questions.

#### Grammar & Language

1. What is the name of the three periods together, used in the opening line of this article, and what is its effect?

2. Find three words which contain hyphens, and explain the function of this punctuation mark.

3. Examine the following sentence: "Perhaps that's why so many parents fear social media, and — more specifically—the effect it may be having on their children."

3.1. Are the lines between words here called hyphens or dashes? What's their function?

3.2. Provide a homophone for the word 'their'.

3.3. Is the apostrophe used correctly here? Explain why or why not.

4. Identify and explain an example of alliteration found in this article.

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5. Find the word “hashtag” in the article. In this context, it an example of a noun, adjective, compound adjective, compound noun, adverb or abstract noun? Explain your choice.

6. Explain the writer’s use of italics in the final paragraph.

CONTENT

*For each of the following, identify the letter of the right answer, and then find a word or phrase from the text to back up your choice.*

<p><b>1. The writer of this article is addressing</b>                  A) anybody who works with teenagers.                  B) specifically parents of teenagers.                  C) teenagers themselves.                  D) anybody interested in the topic.</p>	<p><b>5. Research has found that</b>                  A) teens who spend the most time on social media have the most social issues.                  B) there is evidence for both sides of the argument.                  C) teens who use phones the most, spend the most amount of time in real-life interactions.                  D) parents have justifiable reasons to be concerned.</p>
<p><b>2. The writer argues that the technological world might make people feel</b>                  A) as though they need to police their children.                  B) as though they are stupid and old.                  C) as though they are in a world they don't belong.                  D) like incapable parents.</p>	<p><b>6. Social media can help children</b>                  A) who are not 'intelligent' in the traditional, scholarly way.                  B) who do exceptionally well academically.                  C) who like to do unconventional things.                  D) who are very shy and introverted.</p>
<p><b>3. Often, the main concern for parents is</b>                  A) the time spent looking down at screens.                  B) the lack of human interaction.                  C) the fact that children grow up too quickly.                  D) the potential for harmful relationships.</p>	<p><b>7. The fear of social media can be</b>                  A) unhelpful as it doesn't allow you to see the benefits.                  B) helpful as it makes you cautious for your children.                  C) irrational and limiting.                  D) used productively to help guide young people.</p>
<p><b>4. The media influences this debate by</b>                  A) providing space for parents to share their concerns.                  B) opening up the conversation.                  C) frightening parents with negative stories.                  D) providing job opportunities for young people.</p>	<p><b>8. The style and tone of this article is</b>                  A) informal and humorous.                  B) formal and filled with technical jargon.                  C) conversational and informal.                  D) conversational and filled with colloquialisms.</p>

**Making Connections**

1. In what ways do you use social media in your own life?

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2. Do you agree with the thoughts of the writer? Explain why or why not.

3. In what ways might social media boost a person's confidence?

4. In what ways might social media increase a person's creativity?

5. When the writer writes that teenagers are exposed to "too much, too soon", to what might she be referring? List three points.

6. The writer asserts at the end that it is all about how social media is best used. Imagine you have to write a follow-up article, identifying 5 ways in which social media can be used safely, and productively. Write those five points.



by Emily Rose Cavendish

# SOCIAL MEDIA FOR TEENAGERS

## Threat or Asset?

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr, Periscope, Youtube... by the time this article goes to print another social media platform could well have emerged and risen to the top of the digital pile. As a parent, this ever-shifting technological landscape might well seem foreign and hostile—and leave you feeling like an interloper in a fast-paced online community of innovative influencers, hashtag artisans, and real-time phenomenons.

Perhaps that's why so many parents fear social media, and—more specifically—the effect it may be having on their children. Mainstream media is saturated with horror stories of online grooming, internet 'trolls' and inappropriate content. Apart from these extreme cases of psychological trauma and physical harm, a more general worry seems to be that children are being exposed to too

much, too soon and being forced to grow up too fast.

But you may be overlooking the positive effects that social media can have on teenagers.

The far-reaching nature of social media means that the potential for interpersonal connections is infinitely more extensive but, while the terrifying prospect of unhealthy relationships is often a blazing neon warning light flashing at the forefront of parental concern and discussion, it may be blinding you to the possibility of genuine, positive friendships.

Take Tavi Gevinson, for example. Tavi, now 19, is the founder and editor-in-chief of an online magazine for teenage girls. She says online socializing is "all about connection. I've made some of my closest friends online, through blogging communities."

Separate research by a US think tank supports the theory that social media doesn't replace human interaction. They found that the most avid teen texters are also the ones most likely to spend face-to-face time with their friends.

Another benefit some parents have noticed is a boost to their kids' confidence and creativity—particularly for students who aren't typically 'academic'—as they form original ideas, and create and publish their own content to the world. And it's not just parents who are noticing but employers too. Understanding how to communicate online, build a cyber profile, and grow a following is something a lot of employers are starting to view as a vital skill.

So perhaps the question parents should be asking is not if their teen should be using social media, but how they can use it best.