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Teens Change Behavior

Have you ever wondered how often you’re on social networking sites? According to a research group call the Pew Internet & American Life Project about more than half of American teens have an account on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and others. Have you ever asked yourself if you’re becoming addicted to social networking sites and if there’s been any changes in the way you behave? You probably never even realize about it before, since social networks are intentionally created to allow us to communicate and interact with people, but social networking sites have effects on our behavior, especially teenagers and young adults. Social networks are very popular with teens and young adults. Do you know that your addiction to social media has change your communication and interaction way in real life? The time that you spend on social networking sites could make you become addictive to it. As you communicate and interact with others online everyday you’ll get use it and then you’ll start communicating and interacting with people like you do online in real life. Social networks could be addictive and it could lead to communication and interaction changes in real life.

Social networks could cause addiction if you use it to much. Teens are on social networking sites all the time because they’re addictive to it. This idea of addiction to media is shown in Fahrenheit 451 when Mildred refuses to turn off the TV for her sick husband. “Will you turn the parlor off? That’s my family. Will you turn it off for a sick man? I’ll turn it down. She went out the room and did nothing to it and came back” (48-49). This demonstrates how addicted Mildred is to the parlor. It shows that she is very addicted to the parlor, that she couldn’t turn it off, not even for her sick husband Montag, who just want some peace and quiet to rest. The parlor was more important to her than her husband. Fahrenheit 451’s societies are obsessed with TV.  But, in our society we are obsessed with the Internet. The Internet is most popular with teens. Reports have shown that teens devote about more than 50 hours a week to daily media uses (“whatissocialnetworking.com”). If teens spend this much time on the Internet they’ll be brainwash.  A college student stated on CBS news; “There were nights where I, like spent the entire night just, like customizing my page.” This statement demonstrated how teens and young adults become addicted to social networking sites. Just by engaging in activities online teens could become addictive. Their addiction could lead them to giving up their sleep time or their time to do more important things that will help them in life. The college student specifically stated, “I, like, spent the entire night.” If this becomes a habit, the student sure will become social media addictive. The addiction of something comes from habits that you’re doing it every day. If this continues teens could lose their time to spend on other things rather than just customizing their Facebook, Twitter page.

Being addictive to social networks like Facebook and Twitter could lead teens to lose their communicate skills. These types of media have changed the way people communicate with each other.  This idea of media changing our communication is presented in Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451 by Mildred. Mildred was so into her Seashell radio ear plugs that she became an expert at lip reading, “She was an expert at lip reading from ten years of apprenticeship at Seashell ear thimbles” (18). This quote demonstrates the way communications have changed due to the fact of media use. Mildred had her Seashell for ten years and she’s been listening to them for the ten years. The Seashell changed the way she communicates with her husband. She doesn’t even listen to what her husband’s saying, she just read his lips. Today, our communication way has changed due to the same fact as in Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451. Media has change the way that we used to talk. Back in the day, we would write letters or go to the person’s house, but now we all use media to communicate. We use media such as texting on cell phones and messaging on social networks to communicate other. Based on the article of “My Finding” by Shelby Snider teens would rather communicate through the internet than in person. “Rather than speaking with someone face-to-face, picking up a telephone, or writing a letter, teens use the Internet for communication.” The article specifically stated that: “teens use the Internet for communication.” This shows what teens use for communication with others. Instead of meeting up with their friends to tell them things, they do it on social networks. Teens often feel more comfortable using internet as a way to communicate with others because they feel more safe and confident. Communicating through the internet allows teens to come out of their shell. Shy teens often talk more and feel more confident on the Internet than in real life. But those confidence online only could make them lose their communication skills in real life. If they only feel confident online than they’ll only talk online and not in real life. This will make them lose their communication skills.

Social networks addiction does not just lead to communication change. It also leads to changes in the way teens interacts. In society today, media has changed the way we interact with others. As technology advanced, our interaction began to change especially with teens these days. Teens today are so use to using social media that it changed the way they interact. They rather interact with others online than face-to-face, even to those that they don’t even know or seen before. Back in the old days, we would have to see the person for us to be able to meet them or talk to them and interact with them. But society today, instead of talking and smiling in person they use colons with brackets as a smile and laughs are typed as Ha Ha’s or LOLs, “Okay” was just “K” and “See you” was rendered as “c ya.” According to Hilary Stout article “Antisocial” he stated that “For today’s teenagers and preteens, the give and take of friendship seems to be conducted increasingly in the abbreviated snatches of cellphone texts and instant messages, or through the very public forum of Facebook walls and MySpace bulletins.” He says specifically about interaction it occurs, “increasingly in the abbreviated snatches of cellphone texts and instant messages.” This shows how teens don’t talk anymore, instead they use text, and even the words they do use are shortened. There are many reasons to why teens preferred texting and instant messages over real life interactions. Teens sometime feel more comfortable with texting and social media messaging because it stops the awkwardness of social interaction, like blushing and stammering, that can prevent shy teenagers from engaging in conversations, and when you can't think of something to say it gives you time to think about things before you say. They also feel that it gives you more privacy because others can’t see or hear what the conversation is about. But if we interacts with people online all the time, we will definitely lose our interact skills with other in life.

Media has become a big part of teen’s lives and it’s all because of the way we use media. Social networks is intentionally created by website designers to allow families, friends, relatives and other individuals to be in contact with each other, and to give people opportunities to make themselves available and reachable to others as fast as they can. But we don’t use it as it was created for. We spend like very minutes on social networks. All those minutes made us addictive to social networks. As we continues to use social networks because of our addiction, our communications and interactions with others will change due to the fact that we’re so used to online communications and interactions. Here’s a challenge for you all readers. All of you should to be aware of the time that you spend on social network sites and of what you do on there. The time you spent on it and the action that you make on there could affect the way you act in person. You probably wouldn’t even notice that you have changed but your peers around you definitely will notice your behavior changes. All these changes came from your action online, it affected your life. For example, on social network sites you’ll be chatting with your friends using slang word and abbreviation and next thing you know you’re talking in slang and abbreviation words to your families. The fact, that your so use to the way you talk and act online you’ll start talking and acting the same way you do online in person to people around you. Social media brings many good things to us but it could cause us to lose things in our life.  To prevent us from losing our communication and interaction ways, we all should use media wisely.