**Digital Life 102**

**Essential Question:** *What is the place of digital media in our lives?*

**Lesson Overview:** Students test their knowledge of digital media and learn some statistics about media through a discussion. After watching the video “Perspectives on Social Media,” they draw conclusions about the positive and negative ways digital media affect them and influence the larger culture.

**Students must complete the Digital Citizenship Google Form located on the main page of the FHS website as documentation of lesson completion. A direct link is here** [**https://goo.gl/mDtR3d**](https://goo.gl/mDtR3d)

**Learning Objectives:** *Students will be able to ...*

• learn basic statistics about the current digital landscape.

• explore the role that media plays in their lives.

• reflect on the positive and negative impact digital media has on them and on society.

**Materials and Preparation**

Review the Got Media Smarts? Quiz located at the end of the lesson plan.

Preview the video “Perspectives on Social Media” and prepare to show it to students.

<http://video.commonsensemedia.org/digitalcitizenship/ConnectedCultureHS.mp4>

**Standards Alignment –**

**Common Core:**

grades 9-10: RI.4, RI.8, W.1a-e, W.2af, W.4, W.5, W.6, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.3, SL.4, SL.5, L.4a, L.4d, L.5a, L.6

ISTE: 1a, 1d, 2a, 2d, 3b, 3d, 4a-c, 5a, 5b

**Key Vocabulary –**

**digital media:** electronic devices and media platforms such as computers, cell phones, video, the Internet, and video games that allow users to create, communicate, and interact with one another or with the device or application itself

**LESSON PLAN**

**Warm-up** *(10 min)*

**DEFINE** the Key Vocabulary term **digital media**.

**REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** as a class the Got Media Smarts? Student Handout (see below)about today’s digital media landscape. The purpose of the quiz is to make them more familiar with some statistics on how people — and especially teens — use digital media in their daily lives.

***ASK: Which one or two answers surprised you the most?***

***ASK: Which one or two statistics most closely reflect how you use digital media in your own life? Which are the farthest from your own personal experience?***

**Life in a Connected Culture**

*(15 minutes)*

**SHOW** the video “Perspectives on Social Media” and discuss the following questions with students.

<http://video.commonsensemedia.org/digitalcitizenship/ConnectedCultureHS.mp4>

***ASK: What are some of the upsides and downsides of digital life, according to the teens in the film? What do you think the upsides and downsides are in your own life?***

Sample responses: Upsides Downsides

• I learn a lot from the Internet.

• Projects in school can be more fun and interesting with technology.

• I have a good time playing video games or participating in virtual worlds.

• I don’t like some of the things people send me.

• Some of the things I end up doing with digital media are a waste of time.

• I spend more time alone than I used to.

***ASK: What are some of the upsides and downsides of digital media for relationships?***

Sample responses: Upsides Downsides

• People can connect with lots of others quickly.

• People are connected to a larger community than the people they know offline.

• People can get to know others who are geographically far away.

• People can say nasty things when they are anonymous.

• Sometimes it is easier to misinterpret what people mean online.

• Damaging information can spread quickly online.

***ASK: What are some of the benefits of digital media for our country as a whole? What are some of the problems***

***it might cause?***

Sample responses: Benefits Problems

• People have access to more information and can learn about almost anything online.

• We produce innovative technologies for medicine and other important fields.

• Many tasks can be done faster with technology.

• People do not spend as much time talking face to face.

• People can get addicted to technology.

• People can become lazy and depend on technology instead of using their brains.

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**As time permits, use the following quiz as a whole group discussion on statistics about students and social media. Answers are on the following page.**

**Got Media Smarts?**

**Directions**

Discuss what surprised you the most and which answers were the closest to or farthest from your own experiences.

**1. 82% of teens say that they own which of the following?**

a) cell phone b) smartphone c) iPad or similar device d) Chromebook or similar device

**2. What percent of teens describe themselves as “addicted” to their**

**cell phones?**

a) 11% b) 27% c) 41% d) 63%

**3. 68% of teens say they do which of the following at least once a day?**

a) text b) visit a social network c) instant message (IM) d) use email

**4. What percent of teens agreed they wish they could “unplug” for a while?**

a) 13% b) 27% c) 29% d) 43%

**5. 51% of teens visit social networking sites \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

a) at least once a day b) several times a day c) once a week or less d) never

**6. What percent of teens say that they don’t understand their social**

**networking site’s privacy policies?**

a) 24% b) 35% c) 46% d) 61%

**7. True or false? More teens say they prefer texting with their friends than**

**talking in person.**

TRUE or FALSE

**8. What percent of teens say they have said something bad about someone**

**online that they wouldn’t have said in person?**

a) 25% b) 35% c) 49% d) 67%

**9. What percent of teens say that social networking helps them connect**

**with people who share a common interest?**

a) 35% b) 42% c) 57% d) 66%

**10. True or false? More teens say that social media makes them feel better**

**about themselves than worse.**

TRUE or FALSE

**Got Media Smarts? Answer Key**

**1. 82% of teens say that they own which of the following?**

The correct answer is a, a cell phone. The vast majority of teenagers have their own cell phone (82%), including 41% who say they have a smartphone. Cell phone ownership varies by age – 74% of 13- to 14-year olds, compared with 87% of 15- to 17-year-olds.

**2. What percent of teens describe themselves as “addicted” to their**

**cell phones?**

The correct answer is c, 41%. And 21% of wish that their parents would spend less time with their cell phones and other devices.

**3. 68% of teens say they do which of the following at least once a day?**

The correct answer is a, text. Two-thirds (68%) of teens text every day, half (51%) visit social networking sites daily, and 11% send or receive tweets at least once every day. Teens prefer texting due to the convenience – 30% saying it’s the quickest and 23% because it’s the easiest way to get in touch with one another.

**4. What percent of teens agreed they wish they could “unplug” for a while?**

The correct answer is d, 43%. Of this percentage, 13% agree strongly and 30% agree somewhat that they sometimes wish they could “unplug.” More than a third agree “somewhat” that they sometimes wish they could go back to a time when there was no Facebook.

**5. 51% of teens visit social networking sites \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

The correct answer is a: Just over half of teens visit social media sites at least once per day, and about one third of teens – 34% – visit social media sites several times a day. In fact, 90% of teens say they have used social media and 75% currently have a profile on a social networking site.

**6. What percent of teens say that they don’t understand their social**

**networking site’s privacy policies?**

The correct answer is a, 24%. About a quarter of teen users admit they understand their social networking site’s policies either “not too well” or “not at all.”

**7. True or false? More teens say they prefer texting with their friends than**

**talking in person.**

The correct answer is FALSE. When asked about their favorite ways to communicate with friends, about half of teens (49%) say they prefer in person communication. 38% believe face-to-face conversations to be more fun, and 29% say that they can better understand what people really mean in person. Fewer teens - (33%) - say texting is their favorite. Only 4% prefer talking on the phone as their favored way to communicate with friends.

**8. What percent of teens say they have said something bad about someone**

**online that they wouldn’t have said in person?**

The correct answer is a, 25%. A quarter of all teens admit to saying something bad about someone online that they wouldn’t have in person. Similarly, 1 in 4 (24%) social media users say they “often” encounter one or more types of derogatory speech (sexist, homophobic, racist, or anti-religious).

**9. What percent of teens say that social networking helps them connect**

**with people who share a common interest?**

The correct answer is c, 57%. A majority of teens say social media help them keep in touch with friends they can’t see regularly (88%), get to know other students at their school better (69%), and connect with new people who share a common interest (57%).

**10. True or false? More teens say that social media makes them feel better**

**about themselves than worse.**

The correct answer is TRUE. Most teens — 81% — actually say social media doesn’t make much difference on way or the other in terms of how they feel about themselves. But some teens do see an effect, and more find that the effect is positive: 15% say social media makes them feel better about themselves, compared to only 4% who say that using social media makes them feel worse.

Note: All statistics and answer feedback (except for question #4) come from Social Media, Social Life: How Teens View Their Digital Lives, the 2012 research report from Common Sense Media’s Program for the Study of Children and Media. We surveyed more than 1,000 13- to 17-year-olds nationally to understand how they perceive social media (like Facebook and Twitter) affects their relationships and feelings about themselves.

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