How Social Media Is Affecting Teens

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Social media is one of the biggest issues in today’s world. All the social media affect kids and mostly teenagers. Scientists are taking a look at the brain of many teens, asking themselves what is going on with today’s society. The National, the flagship nightly news and current affairs program from Canada’s public broadcaster, CBC, is interviewing teen and asking them what are their priorities. From this video you can conclude what teens thinks about social media and their desperately desire to become famous.

This video for The National is a helpful resource intended for all people, but concentrates more on parents. The purpose for this video is to inform people about the impact that social media has on teen in today’s society. The National interviews kids from different cities by asking them what they want in life, the answer; fame. The video explains how television shows have new values and communicate the feeling of becoming famous. The video says, “The online world todays teenagers live in, craves fame.” (The National, 2014). The video also explains that scientist have research teenagers brains, learning that teenagers are losing the feeling of empathy by showing how teenagers are constantly using social media without taking a break to think about life. The video is very self-explanatory and it shows interviews, which makes it easier to understand the point they are trying to make.

Ethos can be found towards the end of the video. The credibility comes from the researcher and the scientists that study teenagers’ brains who are hired by The National. Towards the end of the video they explain how teenagers’ brains work and their functions. It also shows how teenagers are losing the sense of empathy due to social media. Teenagers today are very attached to social media. The video says, “Kids are constantly engaged with their technology and are not activating their brain areas that help them reflect on themselves and other people” (The National, 2014). The video also shows different kids explaining how they would like to become famous and how they do not have time to reflect about life. A girl from the video says, “I like it when people like my pictures because it makes me feel pretty.” (The National, 2014). Researchers are convinced that television shows communicate this feeling of wanting to be accepted in society.

The kids being interviewed relates to the pathos appeal. The innocence in the voice of this kids transmit a feeling of understanding. The researcher from The National uses kids to show the opinion from the teen’s perspective. The kids are very honest with what they want and what they feel. The video also shows an example of what a kid likes. This little girl does videos clips with her cat and explains that for her is important the likes the video receives because it makes her happy, this transmits empathy to the audience. The girl says, “It feels really good that people appreciate my work because I put a lot of work into this stuff and when they do not like it kind of feels bad.” (The National, 2014). The researcher is greatly motivated and asks very simple silly questions to the kids so they can easily understand. The kids in this video act embarrassed by admitting their priorities which is mostly social media and their eager for fame, which transfer a feeling of guilt in their voice because they can feel that too much social media can contribute to the lack of social skills a kid has in society nowadays. Pathos also appears as the video explains some cases of teen committing suicide due to the cyber bullying they experienced. Fame can bring joy and excitement, “But it can also bring heartbreak and bullying, Amanda Todd, Rehtaeh Parsons, Jamie Hubley; the list of victims grows”. (The National, 2014). These behaviors explain how their lack of empathy affects other teens in their surroundings.

The video presents logos throughout the video. A researcher conveys a survey with the teens to find out how many of them use social media in a daily basis just to find out that every teen being interviewed uses social media not only to entertain themselves, but also to try to feel the acceptance of society. Television plays an important role in the controversy of how social media is affecting teenagers. The video says, “Television has been around since the 1950’s, but the major change was social media.” (The National, 2014). Another important point in time is, values. Before, television had a whole different set of values, for example; sense of community and family values. The National explains, “The number one value in new shows out of a list of 16 values was fame, but in every other decade it was number 15 or 16.” (The National, 2014). Boston College neuroscientist suggests that teens that tend to use technology with high frequency are not activating necessary parts of the brain they need to reflect about feelings and are shut down most of the time. This scientist found that these areas are only active when you do nothing, but it is almost impossible for today’s society to accomplish this, due to the tremendous amount of time they put into their online world.

In conclusion, giving social media can affect your health in a way you did not even know existed. Social media can be exciting and deadly at the same time. Teenagers in this video contribute with information about how they are using social media and what they want to get out of these social networking services, but without knowing the harm they can bring to others. Social media helps people around the world keep in touch with their loved ones. Abusing the way and time you use social media is what traumatizes today’s society. If this continues to happen, our future will be destroyed by ambition and arrogance.

Reference:

The National. (2014, February 24). How social media is affecting teens. [Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QWoP6jJG3k