



Questions for Classroom Discussion

Welcome to Social Media

- **What is “Social Media,” and why is it so important in young people’s lives today?**

- ⇒ Consider the definition of social media, which is an online forum where people can share information, pictures, videos, ideas, comments, and any other content
- ⇒ Consider popular Social Media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Skype, Google Hangout, Vine, and many more (and new sites are being created all of the time)
- ⇒ Consider that young people have grown up with Social Media all of their lives, so it is very natural for them to communicate and share in this way

- **Should schools teach students how to use Social Media correctly?**

- ⇒ Consider that over 90% of teenagers have used Social Media in some ways, whether it’s simply sharing a photo, “tweeting” a message, or engaging in online chats/video sessions
- ⇒ Consider that there are lurking dangers dealing with privacy, online reputation, cyberbullying, and simple etiquette that students often overlook or have never considered
- ⇒ Consider that teachers are already overwhelmed with curriculum, so schools might not be the best setting for students to learn about Social Media (on the other hand, Social Media can be used to help the teacher and make learning more engaging and effective)

- **What are the most important things that students should know about social media?**

- ⇒ Consider the technical skills that are needed to take full advantage of certain websites or apps that focus on sharing information and ideas (sometimes, students are more tech savvy than teachers)
- ⇒ Consider that the most dangerous aspect of Social Media is privacy (really, it’s the lack of it), and students need to know that nothing is completely private if it is placed online
- ⇒ Consider how cyberbullying is a growing problem, and that it’s hard to judge the context of comments placed online... also there are certain conduct rules for engaging in Social Media