Social Media: Clicking High School Students’ Grades Down the Drain

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Introduction

How does social media like Facebook and Twitter interfere with the grades of high school students? Social media such as Facebook and Twitter is a vast distraction for high school teenagers. This is a proposal to see how social media interferes with the grades of high school students. We believe the grades of Facebook users and Twitter users are lower compared to the grades of non-social media users. Since students are focusing on Facebook and Twitter instead of studying, they are not doing well in their classes. With Mayor Bill de Blasio’s vow to remove the cell phone ban in schools, the grades of high school students will have a large impact.

Methods

There are two different methods suggested to conduct this research. The methods are unobtrusive participation and survey. In both methods, the participants will be high school students in math and science classes.

In the unobtrusive participation method, the students will be observed during their math and science classes a semester. The observer will also see how long the students study for a week. By the end of the semester, the researchers will compare the grades of the students who used Facebook and Twitter during class to the students who did not.

In the survey method, students will be asked many closed questions such as the following:

- Studies show that students who are Facebook users tend to spend less time studying which often leads to a lower GPA.
- One study showed that students with Facebook had GPAs ranging from 3.0-3.5 while non-Facebook students had 3.5’s-4.0’s. The study also showed that Facebook users studied on average one to five hours a week compared to non-Facebook users who on average studied 11-15 hours a week.
- In 2007, when Facebook became popular among high school students, grades began to drop.
- 3 out of every 10 high school students have admitted to using Facebook during class.

In the graph above, the students sent tweets throughout the semester. Towards the end of the semester, the researchers will compare the grades of the students who used Facebook and Twitter during class to the students who did not.

According to some teachers, students’ use of grammar is decreasing because of the abbreviations the students constantly use on Twitter and other social media.

- Students get low grades in school due to the lack of desired information and writing skills. This is because when they are studying or searching their course material online, they get attracted to these sites to kill the boredom in their study time, diverting their attention from their work.
- Students have started relying more on the easily accessible information on these social networking sites and the Web. This reduces their learning and research capabilities.
- Students who get involved in activities on social media sites while studying result in reduction in their focus of attention. This causes reduction in their academic performance and concentration to study well.

Facebook

Twitter

Conclusion

Students might not see Facebook and Twitter as a distraction while they are studying or in class, but it is. However, once they see their grades, the students realize maybe they should cut the time they spend on these sites. With Mayor Bill de Blasio’s plan to remove the cell phone ban, it is important to bring to light the interference of social media on grades. If students are allowed to bring cell phones to school, they will use them during class.

According to the table, students who are heavy media users received lower grades compared to those who were light media users.

References


