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CAHS

Educational Value of Social Media

In today's society, it is as natural to be tech savvy as it is to breathe air for our generation being that it's what we grew up around, majority wise. We've blossomed our knowledge by our encounters with the computer and have enhanced it even further through our undeniable fascination in smartphones, doing what we want with them when we ever so feel the inclination to. Surfing on the internet is no longer a solitary event and can rather be seen as a "group sport", as social media has united us through examples such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube, SnapChat and more. The world is all but in the palm of our hands with this advanced technology and knowledge is easier to access than ever before, and believe it or not social media can serve you well regarding the educational system. How you may ask? There are in fact many ways to list and among them are by allowing students to communicate more effectively on class topics , reaching out for information from professionals, and by simply being able to work together better with other students.

Teachers share their knowledge with their students but not all students can receive it, so doesn't it make sense for students to share with each other if they know something as well? With great certainty it can be said that we've all had that moment where the teacher said or explained something that we didn't quite catch so we ask a "neighbor." Don't we sometimes forget the homework or wasn't there to learn a lesson? That isn't generally a problem anymore when we can simply pop in the class group chat to ask or even with the teacher herself through

apps such as Messenger and Remind. From one question comes a reply maybe even upon a string of more, easily leading to a class discussion that enriches our knowledge on the topic. In a classroom setting some people feel much too reserved to display their thoughts, but through these group chats it's not as hard. This social growth can also lead to liberal bravery in the classroom overtime, and in educational settings we can be certain of its importance.

Educational assistance from both teachers and students alike should be highly valued by a student but at the same time, aren't the more options the merrier? After all, badgering the same people over and over could wear out your welcome, and so that is why other sources should be sought out as well. For example, how about if you still can't understand a lesson after vast and various explanations that simply won't connect? Don't shed a tear, YouTube is here. Let us not undermine the magnificence of this immense source of knowledge that has provided the mentally distressed student population with lesson explanations, crash courses, and much more of the sort for quite some time. The beauty of it is that you can pause, rewind, and take notes at your own pace from the professionals that can give the even the most confused student a boost. Note that many of these professionals consist of college and university professors so you can be sure that it would be of great use to a student. All anyone has to do is take the initiative to tap and listen.

Lastly, in addition to assisting students in the educational learning process, social media can assist you in completing assignments in particular, group projects. As mentioned earlier group chats and the sort can allow you to communicate better and so expounding on that topic, social media such as Google+ can help you work together as if you were together in the case of group research projects, scripts, and basically document based assignments. In reality, it's too

much of a hassle to do each part separately, to then send to one person so that he or she can simply “add it in,” and the hassle exists because it is not just “adding in” if you have to edit and tighten the loose corners. And so with Google+, partners can work together in the same document and follow the process all the way through together. In addition to Google+ many social media such as Messenger provide group calling and Facetime so that you can work with each other through audio and visuals as well.

To conclude, our generation utilizes technology for many things because it is what we grew up around. In past decades, technology had advanced even more as displayed through the creation of the smart phone, paving way for the dominance of social media in our lives. The wide usage rates of media such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Google+ and more prove this and what better tool for education than what’s vast, powerful, and right at the edge of our fingertips? What a shame it would be to let this potential held inside of them go to waste. Therefore students should and have already been utilizing social media to communicate more effectively on class topics, gathering information from professionals, and by simply being able to work together better with other students.