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Social Networking Sites: Losing Sight of How to Socialize

Andrew is a typical teenager, a freshman, and like many teenagers today, he wants the latest shoe style, seems to always have headphones in, is part of the wrestling team, and does an average job in school. What also makes Andrew typical is what he does when he is not at school. Most parents do not know that their teenager is engaged in the activity. It is a tragic scene. Each user's room is different, but they all have a few things in common: dirty dishes stacked in the corner; no natural light because the curtains are drawn to hide the sadness inside; energy drinks litter the floor; and a stale, musty odor that permeates the room. At the center of this mess is a computer. These teenagers are addicted to what is on their computer. Addicted to social networking sites. Addicted. Social networking sites have been around for over a decade, used mostly by computer programmers, but have not gained a mainstream following until the advent of Myspace, and more recently, Facebook and Twitter. By 2009, Facebook is so ubiquitous that it is noun and verb. Nearly 72 % of the population has at least one social network profile online (Moerdyck). A social network is any web site where users create an online profile and connect with other users via text, photos, or video. Users then build "connections" between other users with the intention of creating valuable associations. This does not always happen. With the increase of social networking sites, a question is raised—How do social networking websites affect society? Social networking web sites cause isolation as shown by seclusion at home, exclusion from social experiences, and delusion of true friendship.

HOOK

SYNOPSIS

TOPIC OF ESSAY

SUB-TOPICS OF ESSAY