

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

Date: Thursday, May 4, 2017

Article: **Poll finds most teens take social-media breaks**

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Section: MAIN, A13

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3

Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

Objective:

Students will practice their reading skills to explore how the author uses reasoning and evidence to support specific points in the text by using deeper level questions and connecting the content to their personal lives.

Vocabulary:

Look up the definitions for the following word. First, write what you think the highlighted word means, then look up the definition and write it in the space provided, using your own words.

Lower-income teens were more likely to take social-media breaks than their wealthier **counterparts**, and their breaks tended to last longer.

Counterpart guess:

Counterpart definition:

Building Language Skills:

Visualizing text is a proven way that improves reading comprehension. Have students close their eyes and listen carefully. Have them think deeply about the words described in the statement.

The teacher will read the following information to the class, taken from the article.

“The poll, from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, surveyed teens ages 13 to 17 and found that most value the feeling of connection with friends and family that social media provides. A much smaller number associate it with negative emotions, such as being overwhelmed or needing to always show their best selves.”

Have students share their thoughts. What images did you visualize? What emotions or thoughts arise? Do you share the same feelings about social media?

Comprehension:

1. The common stereotype has teens glued to their phones 24/7. But nearly 60 percent of teens in the U.S. are doing what?
2. The poll, from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, surveyed teens ages 13 to 17 and found that most value the feeling of what when on social media?
3. Typically how long are these media “breaks?” Do boys or girls take longer ones?
4. Teens were allowed to cite multiple reasons for their breaks. What were they?
5. Among the teens who took voluntary breaks, _____ percent did so because social media was getting in the way of work or school. Nearly a quarter said they were tired of “the conflict and drama” and _____ percent said they were tired of having to keep up with what’s going on.
6. Nearly half of teens who took a break did so involuntarily. What were the statistics on this group?
7. About 35 percent of teens surveyed said they have not taken a break. Why?

Post-Reading Class Discussion or Journal Writing Assignment:

- **When did you first get a cell phone? Why?**
- **Do you take voluntary breaks? Why or why not? How do you feel when you don’t have access to social media?**
- **Have people become addicted to their phones and social media?**
- **Do you think people always show their “best selves” on their profiles or posts? Why or why not?**

- The study showed that teens gave themselves voluntary breaks, that they aren't "handcuffed" to social media? Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why or why not?
- Are you handcuffed to social media? Are your parents? Why or why not?

The involuntary break "is sort of its own challenge," Lenhart said. "They feel that they are missing out, detached from important social relationships (as well as) news and information."

- Why are involuntary breaks harder for teens?
- When you don't have your cell with you, do you feel these same emotions? That you're "missing out" or "detached from social relationships, news and information?" Why or why not?

Today's teenagers might not recall a time before social media. MySpace was founded in 2003. Had it survived, it would be 14 years old today. Facebook is a year younger. Instagram launched in 2010. For an adult to understand what it might be like for someone who grew up with it to step back from social media, consider disconnecting from email — or your phone — for a couple of weeks.

- What social media is the most popular among teens right now? Why does this platform stand out, making it unique to younger users?

Lower-income teens were more likely to take social-media breaks than their wealthier counterparts, and their breaks tended to last longer.

- Did this statistic surprise you? Why or why not?

Boys were more likely to feel overloaded with information on social media, while girls were more likely to feel they always have to show the best version of themselves.

- Do you agree with this portrayal of young male and female social media users? Why or why not?