

How Important Is My Social Media?

(Day 1) Brain Dump: What are your thoughts about social media right now (likes vs. dislikes, pros and cons, do you have it, what is it for, harmful vs. helpful, etc.)? Write any thoughts that come to mind in the space below:

Your “Social” Circle: Answer the following questions about your own social media friends/connections.

1. How many friends/followers do you have on your MOST-USED social media platform?
2. How many of these friends/followers have you actually met in person?
3. How do you know the friends/followers you haven't met in person?
4. Is this a concern or risk to you? Why or why not?

Debate/Discuss: Is it possible for a teen growing up right now to have a social life/social circle/friends/etc. without any presence on social media? Provide reasoning for your answer.

Post Regrets: Answer the questions below for your own social media experiences.

1. Have you ever posted something you wish you didn't?
2. Can you think of a time where this happened on a larger scale (celebrities, politicians, public figures, etc.)?
3. What were the consequences or implications of these posts? What happened after to the user, community, platform?

(Day 2) Do Now: Do you agree or disagree with the quote below? How could this be applied to social media and the workplace?

"Don't say anything online that you wouldn't want plastered on a billboard with your face on it." – Erin Bury

Agree Disagree

Article Read: After reading the article "[Keep it Clean: Social Media Screenings Gain in Popularity](#)", answer the questions below.

1. What are some of the reasons that article lists for WHY employers will check a potential employee's social media?
2. Why is it advised to NOT delete your social media while you are job searching?
3. What does the article encourage users to AVOID when it comes to their social media presence?
4. Is there anything on your social media right now that you wouldn't feel comfortable sharing with a future employer (or college recruiter)?

Safe and Appropriate Social Media Check List

“Because we tend to view our personal social media accounts as being ‘personal,’ there’s a good chance that by viewing someone’s profile, you’ll get a glimpse into their personality beyond the resume,” said DeeAnn Sims-Knight, founder of Dark Horse PR.

Keeping it safe:

- ✓ Lock down your location and privacy settings
- ✓ Use unique and strong passwords for each account
- ✓ Give apps as few permissions as possible
- ✓ Verify friend requests through the person, not the app
- ✓ Don’t accept friend requests from someone you don’t know
- ✓ Delete “friends” you have never met in person
- ✓ Block data sharing between apps
- ✓ Search yourself online to see what’s out there
- ✓ Disallow tagging
- ✓ Don’t post about a vacation until you get back
- ✓ If you suspect your account has been compromised, contact site support staff and change your password
- ✓ **If you don’t want it public, don’t post it!**

Keeping it appropriate:

- ✓ Make sure your profiles are set to private
- ✓ Use caution with what you like and post comments on
- ✓ Check accounts for posts, likes and comments in anything that might be a red flag- illegal activities, offensive comments, violent behavior, sexually explicit material or confidential information
- ✓ Keep comments positive and professional
- ✓ If you want, create a secondary “private” account for friends and family only
- ✓ Keep an eye on what others post to your accounts
- ✓ Showcase your positive personality traits
- ✓ Don’t completely delete your account- this makes employers suspect you are hiding something
- ✓ Set up a Google alert to let you know if there is new information about you on the internet
- ✓ **If you don’t want it public, don’t post it!**