



evidence based **OPINION  
WRITING** Should social media  
be used in the  
classroom?

# Source 1: Should Social Media be in the Classroom?

1. Having access to a tablet or a phone is a reality for many children. Aside from playing games, these devices are used to communicate with parents through texting. With devices comes social media, the ability to network with other people near or far.
2. The concept of social media is great; you can share pictures, opinions, or articles you have read with all the people in your social media network. You can also react to what other people post by liking it, commenting on it or sharing it with your own following. So far, these all seem positive.
3. The problem is social media gives you the power to place judgement on other people's thoughts or feelings. By clicking 'like', you value what they have shared, you endorse it. By not clicking 'like', you make the statement that what they shared is not worth your voice, sending a message of disapproval. For most adults, this has no effect on who they are or what they think, but for children, this can be disastrous.
4. Like most children, you want to be liked and seek approval in what you do or say. When what you post on social media is 'liked', it builds up your self-esteem. When what you post is ignored, it makes you doubt your worth. Many children think that the more people that follow them, repost their messages, or click 'like', the more popular and important they are. Is that what you think?
5. In the classroom, social media can be an effective learning tool when students understand the impact of their responses to other people's posts. In a positive classroom environment, where risk-taking is valued, students can use social media to proudly display their learning, sharing it with the world and getting constructive feedback. Students can even self-assess and reflect on their own work.
6. Just like any other tool, social media can harm or help, it all depends on how it is used.

# Source 2: Kids and Social Media

1. There are many different social media platforms for many different needs. Kids like Instagram for pictures, Snapchat for what they want gone in 15 seconds, Twitter for their thoughts or quick facts, and WhatsApp for chatting. When a social media application is popular, everybody wants to use it.
2. The appeal of social media stems from its anonymity, the idea that what you say or share is anonymous. Secrecy is at the heart of pre-teens social interactions. It used to be in tree houses or secret hide-outs with magazines and binoculars. Now interactions are in a virtual world with usernames and hashtags. It provides the perfect venue to explore the use of offensive language or to take risk posting your own pictures and opinions. All things you might not do if you had to do them in person, in front of a live audience.
3. The thrill of anonymity is real. People don't know who you really are and you don't know who you are really chatting with. Often, it's with your friends, but are all your online friends real people that you have met? Adults have pretended to be teens to enter their world and lure them to harmful situations. How do you know if the people you are chatting with are who they say they are?
4. Another concern with social media is that many of them are GPS enabled and they often reveal your location. Aside from telling others where you are, it does the opposite of keeping you safe and exposes you for the world to see. What you thought was anonymous and could not be traced back to you could in fact lead directly to you or your device. Furthermore, everything posted online stays there forever. Even if you delete it, experts can retrieve almost any digital information.
5. Should you use social media or stay away from it? Like everything else, it depends on how you use it. If you use social media with people you know in real life and only post pictures or comments you would be fine with your parents seeing, then you are ready for social media. If you are tempted to misbehave online, then social media might be a dangerous place for you to play.

# Writing Prompt

Write an essay in which you give your opinion: should social media be used in the classroom? Use evidence from the passages to support your response.

Your response should be a multiparagraph essay.

[illegible]

[illegible]



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi friends! I want to start by thanking you for trusting me to create quality products for your students. It's an amazing feeling to know I am helping to impact students across the country.

For those of you who do not know me, I'm a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Orlando, Florida. I have also taught 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I spent one year as an instructional coach for grades 2-5, but quickly realized I was not done in the classroom yet! I have a bachelors in elementary education and a masters in reading education.

I would love to connect with you all on social media. Come find me and say hello :)

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