

A P R I L 2 0 1 4

Final Project

The Positives and Negatives of Blogging



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This e-book will discuss what I learned from Intro to Multimedia Composition this semester. I had mixed feelings about blogs coming into the class, and after learning more about them, I still do. This e-book explains some of the positives and negatives associated with blogging.



Intro to
Multimedia
Composition

Wirstiuk

Due 4/30/14

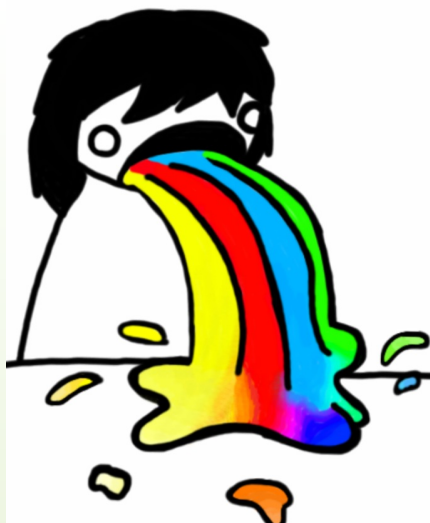
The Positives:

Blogging allows you to develop your own voice

Blogging gives you the rare opportunity to write as yourself. There are few other mediums in which you get to do this as openly as with a blog. When writing for academia, a formal tone must be taken, but this is seldom how we talk in real life. How we talk in real life might not even be how we would write on a blog. Even when writing poetry, that isn't your informal voice, it is your poetic voice. Blogging allows us to develop a new voice that is all its own. Even social media sites, where you do post as yourself, don't allow you the freedom that blogs do. There is certain content that is expected on social media sites, and straying too far from this could be breaking the social norms. On a blog, you can write about whatever you want, in whatever voice you want.



Blogging allows you to channel creativity or negative feelings into something beneficial



Blogging could be a medium through which to channel creativity or negative feelings, or relieve stress. Many people have unknown talents and a blog could be the perfect way to showcase them. For people who find intense enjoyment from an activity or feel strongly about a topic, keeping up a blog can be a great way to relieve stress and negative energy.

Blogs allow you to receive resources and support you might lack in real life

Blogs are a great way to gain resources, attention, social interaction, support and comfort that might not otherwise be attainable. Even for people in tough situations, a blog is a relatively easy way to get your story and your thoughts out there, and get back some kind of answer. Everyone has a computer, and while everyone can't go out and have philosophic debates or wear a sign on their head that says "I'm going through something," on a blog you can, and humanity will usually answer with whatever you sought.



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Blogs can strengthen and bring together minority populations

There are many groups of people who feel like they are alone — it could be ethnic groups, but also groups of people who are going through a life crisis. This could be someone whose parents are going through a divorce, someone battling a disease, a relative of someone battling a disease, someone going through depression or another mental health issue, or any other crisis someone could go through. Making a blog could not only help relieve some pain for yourself, but it could help others who feel like no one knows what they're going through. In shedding light on an issue, it could make people who were unaware realize the effects of this issue. It could even change public policy if enough attention is gained.



The Negatives:

Blogging could cause you to be narcissistic

Although you can develop your own voice by blogging, it could also be detrimental to your personality. If you become too preoccupied with blogging, it could lead to an inflated sense of importance. While it is good to be confident and have self-worth, it is not good to overestimate how important you are. You may be at the center of your blog, but you're not at the center of the world. And even though people may share the same opinions as you, it does not mean you should ignore or discredit the users who have opposite opinions. It is imperative to keep an open mind, even if you get the ultimate say on your blog.



Blogs could lead to isolation

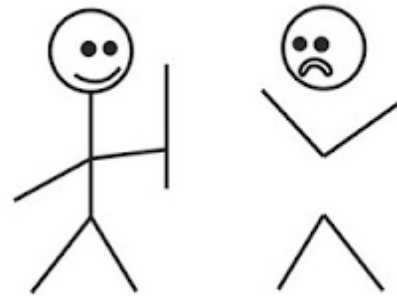


Blogs, like all online mediums, could promote isolation if they are misused. For someone who spends all their time online instead of engaging in actual social interactions, this could be a problem. In this way, people who use blogs to an extreme might feel discontent with their actual life.

Blogs could invite rude comments from others

Although blogs might be a good way to receive social support, they could also lead to the opposite. If you have a stance that is stigmatized or not accepted in society, instead of finding comfort, there might only be hostility channeled toward your blog. This could be exactly what you want — to make a statement. But it could also be alarming and harmful to your self-esteem and confidence.

I've got your back!



Blogs can be used to promote ignorance

Anyone can make a blog. This is a great and terrible thing. It means there is true diversity in blogs. It is also a place for uneducated people to gather and find support for their misguided ideas. Because there are people out there who agree with them, they will then think their ideas have value and are correct. It's important to remember that just because it is on a blog doesn't mean that it's true, and just because people agree with it doesn't mean it's right. Otherwise one could easily fall into the trap of closed-minded thinking.

I'd slap the stupid out of you,
but that would take all
week...



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