

iPhones vs. Social Skills

- Cassidy Alla

Is modern technology affecting the way we interact with one another? The short answer is yes, for obvious reasons. There are more methods of communication today, than there were ten years ago. From seemingly “prehistoric” means such as email or AIM, to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more springing up each day (Could someone explain what “Vine” is?). Then, of course, we bring these sites to the cell phone, making it even easier to keep tabs on everyone you know. This isn’t necessarily a terrible thing, but it seems as if people are more absorbed in everyone else’s lives than their own.

I do not have an iPhone or smartphone of any kind, and I can count on one hand the number of people I know with whom I share this situation. Maybe I have a fresh, unbiased opinion on constant iPhone focus, or maybe I am just missing out on the fun, but I have seen countless friends so mindlessly absorbed in scrolling through their Twitter feed that they miss out on everything around them. I have sat at a silent lunch table as every single person was too busy sending Snapchats to hold a conversation. This is high school, and it is a given that everyone

wants to know everyone else’s business. Constant access to someone’s entire online life makes doing so very easy. This leads people to become obsessed with updating themselves on other peoples’ lives instead of living their own. I have memories of sitting with friends as they tell me how so-and-so Instagrammed a picture from vacation or started a Twitter fight. All the while we have no conversation of our own. As soon as we’re not together, the same friend will be Tweeting and texting me to find out what is going on in my life – this could easily be accomplished by spending time together and talking.

IPhones are affecting the way we socialize by making it easier to communicate through technology, than in person. This kind of technology and social networking isn’t a bad thing; it can be fun and interesting. But there comes a point when we must live our lives as they are happening, not through pictures on Facebook the next day. Have fun with your iPhone, but know when to put it down.