

Your Choice...Your Action...Your Life *Communicate in a Real Way*

Grade level: K-12

Focus: Use of texting and social media could be hindering social skills. Texting is fun, but are we losing our ability to communicate with others?

Goal: Students will understand that the best form of communication comes from building personal relationships face to face. Although communicating through social media can be fun, it can keep us from really getting to know others.

Students will use text coding to help them with support when discussing their opinion.

Materials: “Communicate in a Real Way” PSA; an article from the Internet.

Activity:



Grades K-1

LACC.1.RL.3.7	Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
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Younger students can view the video clip and have a discussion with the teacher about who is in the video and what they are doing. The idea of texting rather than talking can be discussed and students can tell why talking to each other is a better way of building relationships.

Grades 3-12

STANDARD CODE	STANDARD
LACC.3.RF.4.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
LACC.4.RF.4.4	
LACC.5.RF.4.4	

LACC.6.RL.1.1	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LACC.7.RL.1.1	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

LACC.8.RL.1.1	
LACC.910.RL.1.1	
LACC.1112.RL.1.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. Cognitive Complexity: Level 3: Strategic Thinking & Complex Reasoning

Close Read

Choose an article at an appropriate level for your students to read about texting and the effects on communication skills. Below are some links you can refer to for articles. As always, please preview these sites before assigning students to read them. Content can change on the Internet from one day to the next.

Show the video clip “Texting is Fun”.

Have students read the article you choose without any prior discussion, a cold read. You may want to consider accommodations for special need and ELL students.

Have the students go back and reread to discover what evidence in this article supports that there **is** a problem with use of social media and the decline of social interaction and what evidence supports that texting is **NOT** a problem. Students should underline key words and phrases if possible and code the areas a “P” for texting is a problem and an “N” for not a problem. Students will use this coding to help them find evidence in the passage to support their opinions when discussing this topic.

Have students give their opinion about texting. Do they think that excessive texting can lead to a loss of communication skills? Is this already happening? Is this a problem only for the future? How can we harness the skills we have with texting to be better communicators? What do today’s students need to know to become equipped to communicate in the work force as professional adults? How are the article and the video alike and different? Have students justify their responses.

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/07/26/texting-tweens-lack-gr8_n_1707972.html

http://www.ehow.com/list_7456315_barriers-interpersonal-communication.html

<http://www.depauliaonline.com/opinions/lost-in-translation-texting-killing-human-communication-skills-1.2841429#.UDEwI6lIS7M>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126117811>

<http://www.jobsjournal.com/2011/06/30/colleges-and-employers-don-t-value-your-texting-skills/>