Sociology 101 Social Media Analysis

Originally, I did not have a Facebook account. I didn’t see the purpose of creating an account and I didn’t want to follow all my friends who had. I created one relatively late to the rest of my generation in December 2010. I now realize I created it due to mounted peer pressure. Everyone else had one and therefore I wanted to have one as well, just to fit in. When you’re younger you never realize how you try to assimilate with your peers neglecting your own standards or morals. That was my first year of high school so I figured with a Facebook I would be able to obtain more friends and keep in contact with them more easily. So a little after the creation of my Facebook, I began to post general things I thought would relate to my peers. A little part of me did it just to get them to like the posts, which in my head was confirmation they related and understood what I was saying. This just demonstrates how socially others can influence your own actions. So the creation of my Facebook is in turn completely due to the influence of others on my social status as a teenager. I felt that I was an outcast because I didn’t have a Facebook; as others talked about posts they saw on Facebook, I often had to stand to the side because I was “out of the loop.”

Now that I think about it, most of my early posts on Facebook were for other people’s enjoyment. My page was not my own, I just used it for an outlet for others to relate too. My early posts would include poems, general quotes, and other stereotypical statements that I expected my peers to respond too. Most of the poems I posted on my Facebook I wrote myself, because at the moment I enjoyed expressing myself through thought provoking words. But I began to realize that I was posting my poems so that others could think I was deep or mature. I took an expression of my inner most thoughts and turned them into a spectacle to help change others prospective of me. “Wondering whats going happen next.... Life is just to unpredictable”, is an example of what I would post. Other than my grammatical errors, that post represented my adolescent thinking, which conveyed how at a young age we are easily manipulated. As I went through high school my posts became more and more mature. I developed my own sense of thinking on certain issues and it reflected in my posts. I posted topics and issues that I felt people should know about which bothered me at the time. For example I posted “capitalism will be the death of us”, after learning about the growing inequality between the rich and the poor.

As I look at my Facebook now, it’s a great tool to review your maturation as a person. I went from a person influenced by those around me so much to having my own sense of self that I now use to engage the minds of others. And as I grew older I began to use Facebook to network with mentors. Through the course of my high school career I meet adults who wanted to share their vast knowledge about the real world with me. I was willing to learn all that they wanted to teach me, so I used Facebook as an outlet to gain knowledge from those who were established in their respective fields.

The interface of my Facebook is pretty basic. I have a link of my page with my blood brother and someone who I have listed as my brother but is just a close family friend. I believe this displays how non-family members are considered parts of your family. Over time people become closer than you ever expected than when you first meet them. They become part of your family, especially when there are parts of your nuclear family that are missing or nonexistent. If you’re an only child it’s easier to consider your best friend as a brother or sister because you lack the companionship shared between siblings. I grew up with this “brother” in Guyana and he help shape the person I’ve become today and therefore I consider him a part of my family.

These days I barely use my Facebook account. I consider Facebook as an outlet for people just to complain about their lives. There is so much negativity and stereotypes expressed by my friends on Facebook that I much rather stay away. For example, people posting videos that express stereotypes of common activities of black, Asians, or Hispanics. But that’s not to say there aren’t positive activists and promotions on Facebook, in fact there are many that support youth mentoring or scholarships opportunities but they are often shadowed by those who like to capitalize on the misfortune of others. In the rare occurrence that I use my Facebook account, I like to share and post statuses addressing the corruption of the government or economic theory because these topics have now become more important to me. And secondly, because I believe people should be aware to the issues around them. Facebook differs from other social media platforms because it allows you to directly see your maturation as a person and also your friends since the creation of your account. You get to see your mind and the mind of those around you develop and often shift directions as you grow older.

[Powered by TCPDF (www.tcpdf.org)](http://www.tcpdf.org)