

SOCIAL - 6-8

FRIENDSHIP & SOCIAL MEDIA

Digital Communication & Collaboration



Approx Time: **30 minutes**

IGNITE

Social media - Do you use it? How about your friends and family? How would you explain it to someone who hasn't used it before?

Explore

Do a quick Google Search for "social media". After exploring a couple of sites. Try to see if you can put your own definition together.

You might see Social media referenced as an internet-based form of communication. Social media platforms allow users to have conversations, share information and create

web content," (Source: [University of South Florida](#)).

So, important words to understand are: communication, conversations, information, and creating content. How do you currently do these things?

However, within all of those big ideas are lots of smaller pieces, right? For example, conversations could be good or bad, might be with friends or non-friends, could be safe or risky, etc.

Discover

Check out this video titled ["Teen Voices: Friendships and Social Media?"](#).

As you watch, think about how these people are benefitting or

encountering issues related to social media.

LAND

The video included quite a few different perspectives and experiences of social media. Think about how your social media experiences compare and contrast to the people in the video.

- One thing that was mentioned was the feeling of "missing out" due to social media. Whether someone's phone was broken or they were seeing their friends doing fun things without them, people felt *disconnected*.
- Have you ever felt disconnected because of something you saw on social media? Why or why not?
- Some people feel more *connected* to their

friends through social media. In what ways do you feel connected to your friends the best? Is social media involved or is it a real life connection?

Next Steps:

- What are ways that you and your friends/family could strengthen your connections - without social media? What steps do you all need to take to connect in this way?
- What habits do you have around using social media? When do you look at it? When do you post things? How often? What habits might you change or adjust?
- In the video, one person said he wants to play more basketball or read more. If you

spend less time on social media, what other activities would you like to do?

SUCCESS SKILLS

- Emerging Innovator
- Effective Communicator
- Productive Collaborator