

TELUS Wise®



Bring digital literacy education into your classroom.

Lesson plan: Exploring the pros and cons of social media

Grades: 7-9

Duration: 45 minutes

Overview:

Social media can have real-life impacts, both positive and negative. In this activity, students will develop a list of the advantages and disadvantages of using social media. Then, they will reflect on their findings by applying their knowledge to create a best-in-class social media platform.

Learning outcomes

Students will:

- Challenge their critical thinking and reasoning skills by developing a list of pros and cons of using social media
- Enhance their creative thinking skills through the creation of a best-in-class social media platform

Preparation and materials

- Print or provide access to digital copies of the worksheet (one per student)

Pros and cons of social media

Social media is an integral part of our everyday lives. We use it as a way to connect with others, share what we're interested in and learn about new things, but it has its downfalls. Have you ever thought about the positive and negative effects that social media can have in real life?

In the columns below, you'll find a few examples of pros and cons that come with using social media. Using full sentences, complete the list by providing what you consider to be pros and cons of social media use. Consider the real life effects of things like screen time, oversharing or forgetting to use privacy features.



Pros:

- Social media connects us with friends and family around the world
- Social media can introduce us to new concepts, allowing us to learn more about the world around us

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Cons:

- Excessive use of social media can result in isolation from friends and family
- Social media can be used as a platform for cyberbullying

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Design a best-in-class social media platform

Now that you've explored some of the advantages and disadvantages of using social media, follow the prompts below to design what you consider to be the ideal social media platform using your list of pros and cons as reference.

Title of your platform:

The purpose of your platform:

What does your platform have in common with other social media platforms?

What makes your platform unique?

What security features does your platform have?

Does your platform protect users from cyberbullying? How?

Does your platform allow users to share stories, photos or videos? How?

Does your platform help users manage screen time? How?

Does your platform have measures in place to manage misinformation? What are they?

Does your platform display advertising?

Are there any other notable features within your app?

Design an app icon and/or logo for your platform in the space below: