

Frankly Speaking

Technology makes us the "Dumbest Generation"



FRANCESCA PELUSI
Writer

While I was researching the affect technology has on our generation, I came across some enlightening opinions.

Some researchers and journalists such as Sharon Begley from Newsweek wrote about our generation possibly being the dumbest.

As technology grows, students seem to get lazier. The internet is right at our fingertips, so why aren't we all jumping off of our feet and obtaining all the knowledge that lies right in front of us?

It's something that teenagers don't want to admit or acknowledge, but it is true that we waste an immense amount of time on Facebook and instant messaging. Each incorrect sentence filled with no punctuation and "lol" or "brb" is actually taking a toll on our knowledge.

I am not generalizing; there are plenty of students who do take time to obtain knowledge whether it is through the Internet or right out of a book or newspaper, although there is a reason that journalists and scholars have referred to us as the Dumbest Generation.

According to Thedumbestgeneration.com, "The technology that was supposed to make young adults more astute, diversify their tastes, and improve their minds had the opposite effect." If anyone can notice this effect, we can.

This generation includes those born between 1982 and 2000. One should notice the correlation between this time frame and the time in which computers were readily accessible, it is not a coincidence.

One of the first books written about our generation regarding the issue of knowledge is titled "The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes our Future." It was written by an Emory University English professor, Mark Bauerlein.

According to columnist Don Campbell of USA Today, he says this book discusses the digital culture that has been created. Instead of broadening the horizon for the younger generation, it is being narrowed to a "self absorbed social universe".

Instead of reading "The Great Gatsby" all the way through, we let spark notes do the job for us. Also, as students we don't need to obtain knowledge. All we have to do is type in the search engine on Google and then pass it along.

If we were truly a smart generation, we would learn to utilize the advancing technology to our fullest capability. In order to be a smart generation, students need to value the importance of reading a book all the way through, taking time to obtain knowledge and not let virtual possessions take control of our lives.

Clichéd phrase pertains to many Americans



KAITLIN DUNN
Associate Editor

"You don't know what you have until it's gone." This clichéd phrase has been a theme for many songs, books and movies. It is, in fact, a true statement for many people, including me.

We, as Americans, take so many things for granted. We do not think that we will lose anything that we currently have.

Take food, for example. We think we will always have it so why should we care? I know I rarely eat everything on my plate or appreciate the food I am given. But, what if we did lose it? We would know what it felt like to actually be starving like people in poverty-stricken countries. We would not say "I'm starving" after not eating for four hours like we do now.

On a snowy day, we look outside from our warm, comfortable home and do not even think that we are lucky to have it. The cars we drive, the clothes we wear and electronics we use all go unappreciated. Again, we have never lived without all of these necessities, so we think we will always have them.

Another thing we, or at least I, take for granted is family. There has never been anyone in my family who has been gone for a long period of time until my brother left for college. I never thought it would bother me when he left because we never got along. We also did not see each other very often even though we lived in the same house.

After he left, I found myself missing him and wishing he would come home. I would plan trips to his college hoping he would be able to have lunch. I even downloaded Skype so I could easily talk to him. This feeling of longing was something totally new to me. Seeing him during Spring Break made me realize how much I took him and other things for granted.

Taking things for granted is inevitable because it almost seems like it is in our human nature, but more than likely, nothing will stay forever so enjoy it while you have it.

The Aegis

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