



## *It's Not Your Mother's Facebook* **Teen Tech Use At-A-Glance**

**Tumblr:** This is a blog site where teens express themselves through posting text, images, quotes, links, chats, audio, and video that reflect their beliefs and personality, enabling others with common interests to connect with them.

- Each blog has a theme or specific interest.
- Tumblr users can follow and unfollow a blog whenever they choose.
- Teens like Tumblr because they can express themselves with little fear of being made fun of due to the diversity of bloggers on the site.
- Beware: Posts are not censored in any way! Unhealthy behavior can make its way into posts, influencing others' negative interactions with each other.

**Facebook:** Facebook is the world's most popular social networking website. It allows users to post their status, share photos, create and send event invitations to events, "Like" and/or comment on posts, and follow "Friends". Teens have begun to move away from Facebook, towards Twitter and Instagram due to adult presence.

- Popular uses for younger teens = personal status updates, play games (i.e. Farmville), take "selfies" (photos), "like my status" posts
- Popular uses for older teens = join Facebook groups, share videos and articles, invite "Friends" to events
- Facebook relationship status' are very important to teens
- Facebook Stalking = a way for teens to find out information about a person
- Watch out: Facebook can lead to controlling behaviors, lack of face-to-face communication, cyber bullying, and more.

**Twitter:** This is a booming social media site and app that connects people through short snippets of information from their lives by sending 140 character "tweets" that share thoughts with a push of a button.

- Teens are able to repost thoughts (*re-Tweets*) and ideas in which they find an interest, and are able to keep a list of *Tweets* they enjoyed reading or found a connection with.
- Users can share interests and ideas with others, all over the world.
- Teens love *Twitter* because it allows them to express themselves, and be constantly updated on current events.
- Beware: Teens must be cautious on *Twitter* due to a lack of censorship; mostly with language and communication.

**Instagram:** This is a social media app in which teens can post either photos or videos of what they are doing, where they are, or what they are interested in. It allows their peers, or even just random strangers to "comment" or "like" what they post, and allows the user do the same.

- Every photo or video can be tagged with a major theme or ideas which allow anyone to search for photos with the same interest.
- *Instagrammers* can comment on anybody's posts unless that profile is private.
- Teens like Instagram because it allows them to document their lives through photos, and socially interact with others who share similar interests.
- If teens aren't cautious, this app could make it very easy for anyone to stalk them.



**Snapshot:** *Snapshot* is used for quick photo/video-based communication between people, purportedly without any way to save what's sent. *Snapshot* has features for photos and videos with captions to be sent to teens' social network, and some use the recently added instant messaging and live chat features. The photos cannot be saved and there is not a record of what has been sent or received.

- *Snapshot* allows people to send photos and videos back and forth to one another with small captions.
- *Snapshot* is unique because it does not save the photos or messages sent or received. However, the receivers can "screenshot" save the photo or video, but Snapchat notifies the sender if that has occurred.
- Teens like this app because it allows them to connect with those around them in a fun and private way; sending funny pictures or quick snapshots of their day.
- Beware: *Snapshot*, because its focus is on privacy, encourages risky behavior such as sexting, harassment, and or bullying.

**Pinterest:** *Pinterest* is a social media website and app that allows users to create visual representations ("Boards") of interests, hobbies and ideas. It is essentially a portal for virtual cork boards.

- Allows users to Re-pin, Like, Share, or Create "Pins" (visuals).
- Pins contain hyperlinks that send users to the original source (website) of a Pin.
- Popular Boards on *Pinterest* among teens include: DIY (Do It Yourself) Projects, Weddings, Recipes, Fashion, Hair Styles, Photography, etc.
- *Pinterest's* appeal is the potential to discover new things, based on interests you already have, or want to know more about.
- Beware: Photos featured on *Pinterest* often present unrealistic expectations of male and female bodies which can prove to be detrimental to the health of adolescent dating relationships and self-esteem.

### Noteworthy Teen Social Media Sites and/or Apps

**Vine:** This app allows users to post videos that last up to six seconds and then share what they find to be funny.

- *Vine* videos can be shared on other social media sites which allow people to see and share videos without even using the actual app.
- Teens like this app because it allows them to be creative and see the funny videos of the people they are "following".
- Beware: *Vine* videos often feature violence, unhealthy relationship behavior, and racist and sexist acts/comments that are passed off as funny.

**Kik:** This is an instant messaging app that allows users to communicate without giving out any personal information.

- Users can send text messages, videos, pictures, etc. to other users.
- Teens like this app because it allows for fast communication, a way to converse with random people without disclosing personal information, and private messaging that is harder for parents to monitor.
- Beware: This app can be misused for purposes such as sexting, harassing, and converse about illegal behavior.