

AUDIO SCRIPT

[F1: Female Student; M1: Male Student]

F1: Excuse me, my name's Cathy. I'm a sociology major, and I'm conducting a survey about social networking. Do you have a few minutes to answer some questions?

M1: Sure, go ahead.

F1: Can you tell me your name and age?

M1: Sure. Theo Wennerberg. I'm 19.

F1: Thanks, Theo. First, how many social networking sites do you use?

M1: Right now, I use four sites.

F1: How many hours do you spend each day on your sites?

M1: Hmm, I guess about 3 hours. I'm online for about half an hour before I leave home in the morning. Then, I check in a few times during the day. In the evening, I spend a couple of hours online before I go to bed.

F1: Would you say that you spend (a) not enough time, (b) about the right amount of time, or (c) too much time on your social networks?

M1: I think 3 hours is about the right amount of time. When I was younger, sometimes I spent 5 hours online every day. That's way too much. Since I started college, I spend less time socializing generally. I'm just too busy with my coursework.

F1: Next question. What is the main reason you use social networks?

M1: I think mainly to stay in contact with my family and friends in Sweden. I check in with my family every day. They worry if they don't hear from me. When I first arrived on campus, I connected with the Swedish community and made some really good friends. Now I see those friends in real life, so we just use social media to organize meet-ups. I also belong to a couple of groups. I'm a psychology major, so I belong to a Psych group. I'm also into karate, and we have a group.

F1: Are you careful about the things you post on your sites? I mean, do you think about who is looking at your profile?

M1: Yeah, definitely. I'm very careful. You hear too many bad stories about kids posting inappropriate things for the whole world to see. That's why my profile isn't public. I only belong to closed groups, so we can say what we think. In my view, we should feel

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free to express our opinions. But I'm not interested in posting silly photos or writing stupid comments. Everyone knows future employers can see that stuff.

F1: For my final question, I'd like you to respond by saying whether you agree or disagree.

M1: OK.

F1: Research has found that college students who spend a lot of time checking social networking sites can experience negative feelings such as depression. Agree or disagree?

M1: I agree. It depends on my mood though. When I first came here, I was pretty lonely. Looking at other people's happy photos made me feel worse. Now I'm happier, so I don't mind so much. Everyone wants to look successful on these social networking sites. But no one's life is perfect, and you just have to remember that.

F1: Well, I've finished. Thanks for your time, Theo.

M1: You're welcome, Cathy. Good luck with the survey.