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Professor Bradley
ENC 2135
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Professor Lester Interview

Name: Colonel Rick James Lester

Education: PHD in social sciences

Q1: How would you say social media has affected the teenagers of today?

A: "Statistically we are finding more kids with depression as well as anxiety. Another thing we have been noticing is that it is creating a more egocentric culture."

Q2: What impact have you seen from teenagers using Facebook?

A: "It's truly amazing, for about three days all the students were saying *Meet me out side how bat dat* this scenario alone proves how effective social media is in rapidly spreading information across the nation. Another thing that I see is that with the use of social media there is no censor, so you have people putting their random opinions on the internet which gets spread all across the nation and then teenagers read it and believe it because it was on the internet."

Q3: Do you think that problems like "Facebook depression" are real and should be taken seriously?

A: "I think that it has some truth to it but I also feel like it is the use of internet in general that causes this. Right now, this can't be determined because there are too many variables that could be attributed to this but what in my opinion I think the use of social media creates an addiction of constant interaction."

Q4: Has social media created any school related problems?

A: “The biggest impact I can see on a day to day basis is the amount of distractions that teenagers have during lectures. I’m sure you see it even more often than I do but while I’m teaching the students are looking down at their phones and are usually on snapchat.”

Q5: What are some dangers that social media poses?

A: “The biggest danger of social media right now is that you never know what is true and what is false on social media. Teenagers today more often than not don’t validate the news they hear by researching what they read on social media. The ability to communicate false news articles to millions of people is absurd to me and really presents a great danger to the teenagers.”

Q6: Has the increasing use of social media effected the attitude that teenagers have?

A: “The teenagers who are constantly in their cell phones tend to show more distance as well as less patience than the teenagers who are not always on their cell phones.”

Q7: Is the relationships between teenagers effected by social media in anyway?

A: “One thing that has been relevant to the research we have been doing is that the first thing to be effected is the friendships between teenagers. Due to there being social media websites where people can become friends through a single click of a mouse, teenagers have on average made less effort to make friends with the people around them.”

Q8: What safety risks have you seen from social media?

A: “Cyberbullying is a huge safety risk with social media and should be watched over by the parents as well as teachers.”

Q9: How has Facebook effected the way teenagers react to each other?

A: “Teenagers have been showing an increasing about of disrespect for women which can be contributed to children as early as six years old being able to watch pornography and therefore not being able to understand see women as objects and only used for sex.”

Q10: Could the electronic media attribute to the Flynn effect?\

A: “The Flynn effect is the theory that every ten years the average IQ of the society increases by three points. This has been statistically proven and makes me as well as all other researchers wonder if it can be attributed to the increase of media.”