**A Gentleman’s Guide to Social Networking**

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Your mama didn’t raise a fool but chances are she didn’t give you the run down on proper social networking etiquette either. Hey, it’s not her fault. Her generation was barely rocking cell phones and the World Wide Web showed up somewhere around the time you did. Since you may have missed this lesson here’s a handy guide for the social media obsessed gentleman.

1. Quit the Sailor Language – A gentleman knows how to hold his tongue. Back in the day, men would be careful not to swear or talk about inappropriate things while in the presence of ladies or certain company. Remember that everything you post on Facebook is shared with everyone on your friends list. This not only includes the fairer sex but probably everyone from your boss to your great aunt. We all have stories about getting cut off in traffic but if you feel the need to rant about it, clean up your mouth up first.
2. A Gentleman Doesn’t Whine – So you had a bad breakup? Yeah, she broke your heart and it is okay to say something about it but not *every single post* for the next 6 months! By doing this, your social life will be dedicated to something that made you miserable and you run the risk that you’ll never get over it. The next time you want to write one of those “I’m so miserable” updates, give yourself a good slap in the face and man up instead!
3. A Gentleman is Not a Creep – Sure, every guy has that one lady (a term used loosely at times) on his friends list that posts less-than-modest photos of herself and even likes to engage in some talk that isn’t very ladylike. It is a must of a true gentleman to refrain from objectifying this girl by looking at said photos or engaging in said talk. Unless he has a genuine interest in dating this woman, a true gentleman will treat a lady with the same respect he would show his mom or his little sister. Yes, even on a social media site!
4. A Gentleman Doesn’t Kiss and Tell – It’s almost a guarantee that if you log onto your Facebook right now, one of your high school buddies is bragging about his latest escapade in a status. First of all, no respectable lady wants the whole world hearing about her possible lapse in good judgment. A gentleman doesn’t break a girl’s heart and act like it makes him a man. Second, your grandma is probably on your Facebook so don’t break her heart either! Last but not least, your status update is not your diary. Which brings us to the next tip.
5. A Gentleman Doesn’t Need a Public Diary – Granted, maybe he’s got a journal or a captain’s log tucked away somewhere and it only contains his inner most thoughts and other inspiring life lessons. A gentleman may post a witty observation about life but not in the tone of a twelve year old girl and certainly not about his whiney feelings.
6. A Gentleman is Never Boring – A popular phrase highlighted by Betty Draper on *Mad Men* reminds us of one very important rule in life: Only boring people are bored. Never use an update to complain about being bored because it only proves to the reader that you might just be a boring person.
7. A Gentleman Compliments Ladies and Other Gentlemen – When you see a friend has posted something worthy of a compliment, pay them one. Maybe she looks pretty in her Instagram photo or his latest Facebook status was inspiring, let them know you appreciate their efforts and the things that make them unique. When in doubt just remember a gentleman compliments a person for their witty updates, not for those awkward “duck face” photos.
8. A Gentleman Doesn’t Take Shirtless Selfies – No explanation required but while we’re at it, you might want to quit all of those shots in the bathroom mirror altogether!
9. A Gentleman Knows When to be Funny – Just because a gentleman refuses to be rude, it does not mean that he has to pass up a good opportunity to make jokes about another person’s updates!
10. A Gentleman Isn’t Rude – A true gentleman knows that communication is an art form, one that can be ruined by acting pushy, disrespectful or dishonest. If you see someone post something that gets your blood boiling, avoid ending up in one of those swearing matches we so often see in Facebook or YouTube comments.

Gentlemen, may you have a classy time in all of your networking endeavors!