

Interviewer: Scott

Interviewee: Maggie McGuire – 24 years old – Actress/Model

Time of interview: 11/20/16 9:45 AM

Q: Tell me about your social media habits.

A: Well, typically I scroll Instagram and Facebook a couple times a day. I post usually more professional things to promote my career on Instagram and Facebook has just kinda become a time waster. I get a lot of my new there too, although I know it's not accurate. That's pretty much it.

Q: Which social media sites/apps do you prefer and why?

A: I use Instagram because I like that it's user-friendly and easy. It's kinda got a creative aspect to it. You can also get a lot of information quickly without having to read large paragraphs. I feel like I just use Facebook because I've been using it for so long and everybody's on it. So it makes me feel in touch with everybody else. I don't use Twitter. I have a Twitter but I don't use it.

Q: How many social media sites/apps do you use?

A: Two, unless I'm forgetting a major one. Does Venmo count? Probably not.

Q: Which social media features to you use most and why?

A: I don't know, I don't care about the features. I just like that it works! I guess direct messaging is cool but I don't really use it because I just use iMessage. It's cool I can share posts with people by tagging them in a comment.

Q: How interested are you in trending social media topics and why?

A: It's like a weird pull between very interested and being annoyed because it's all that people are talking about. I mean I want to see what people are saying about it but it gets to a point where it just feels like overload. Or redundant, because all the posts are pretty much the same, at least within my network. My network all has similar views. So I don't feel like what I'm seeing is very well rounded, like I'm missing the whole view on a topic.

Q: Is social media your primary source for news?

A: Unfortunately, it is because it's the easiest way to find out what's been going on because I don't have a TV or cable. I haven't found any real news source that I don't find to be biased. I know social media will be biased, but at least I can have a general idea of what people are currently talking about. But I would like to find a news source that I check instead of social media, it's one of my goals. I just haven't looked into it.

Q: Why don't you want to use social media as a news source?

A: Because like I said, I think a lot of the news isn't accurate. Especially on Facebook. It's click bait! They have these headlines that grab your attention but aren't necessarily true at all. But it's also semi-entertaining to read my friend's take on the topics and the news that they are sharing.

Q: Is there an aspect of social media that you dislike?

A: Yes. I hate how people use Facebook as a soapbox and pour out their emotions and say things that they might not say in real life. But because they're behind a screen they can say whatever they want. And for some people, it almost becomes a stream of consciousness, which is not something I need or want to know about. I also hate that social media is very self-absorbed, which is ironic. It also doesn't capture an accurate picture of someone's life experience. It tends to show perfect lives and even if they put something negative in there it's still done in a way that makes it seem like their life is perfect.

Q: Why did you choose to join social media (eg. FB, Twitter, Reddit, etc)?

A: Because there's a little bit of self-validation involved when people like your posts and comment on them. Most people feel a little insecure and social media gives them a place where they can feel boosted. It gives them a platform to share their views, gives them a sense of belonging in society. It's weird because social media gives you this feeling like you have a big group of friends that you met once or haven't seen in a long time. And in a way that's good, but in a way it makes you think what if it's preventing you from going out and actually meeting new people and having a relationship that's more tangible... But I think that the fact of the matter is that social media is a huge part of life now. It's kinda hard to imagine a world without it at this point. Despite the fact that I grew up without it until I was a teenager and I always feel torn because I want to get rid of it because it's a waste of time. But I have a really hard time actually parting from it... and that really speaks to its power. I also use it to promote my career as an actress and a model and it's such a helpful and easy to use tool for promotion.

Q: If you could change social media in one way - big or small - what would that change be and why?

A: I think ads are annoying on Facebook. I find it creepy they know what I've been searching for. The other thing I would change is the fact that I've been posting on Facebook for probably ten years. And a lot of it seems to be gone... I'm sure it's somewhere in the depths of Facebook and I wish there was a way to archive onto my own computer my Facebook page.

Q: Can you summarize for me, what social media means to you?

A: For me, social media is a place I can connect with old and new friends and promote myself. It's most just a time-waster but I don't want to say that... There's no real lasting impact I think.

Notes:

Maggie doesn't feel like she gets to see all sides of a news story because the people in her networks tend to all fall to the same political viewpoint. She would like to see what people have to say who are maybe not in her list of 'friends' or 'follows'.

Maggie also doesn't like how lengthy some Facebook posts can be. She finds Facebook to be the most inviting for people to post lengthy rants about a particular news story.

Perhaps this points to maybe a set a features that allow a user to view both what their friends have to say about trending topics, as well as a way to view the top posts, regardless of whether or not those people are in his or her network.