

Task 3. Suppose you are the author, and it has been many years since the accident. Write a thank-you letter to Hannah to express your gratitude.

INTEGRATED TASKS

Can online teacher-student friendships benefit education? A newspaper column has sparked a discussion on this topic. Read it and complete the tasks.

Can Online Teacher-Student Friendship Benefit Education?



Charol Shakeshaft from Virginia University ✓

Teacher-student communications have educational value.

"I find that a student struggling with the novel 'Hamlet', for instance, (misses a learning opportunity when he or she sees a teacher on IM (Instant Message) and can't send a message.) Or a student who is too shy to raise his hand in class might prefer to email his teacher,) but might not feel comfortable knowing his parents or a member of the administration might be reading the email as well."

Josh Wolford from Star News Online ✗

The teacher is not a "friend," but an authority figure.

"Teachers should not agree to join a student's list of friends on social media, engage in texting or other electronic communication that could bring extra work or even trouble to the teachers. (There are boundaries that must not be crossed.) The teacher is not a pal, but an authority figure and an instructor who must keep a respectful emotional and social distance."



Notes



Brent Ghan, the spokesman of the Missouri School ✓

Teachers need to connect with students in their digital world.

"High school students live in a virtual world these days. To cut direct and private contact in this area is a bad idea. That is how you communicate with them."

Christine Greenhow at the University of Maryland ✓

The gap between students' life inside and outside school will be widened.

"The number one technology that students use outside school is social networking sites. This is the technology they're turning to as their one-stop shop for communication. It's their email, their notice board, their online photo album, it's where they do their writing. For that reason, (limiting communication between teachers and students only furthers the gap between a student's in-school life and his or her life outside of school.)"



Task 1. Tick (✓) the box if the person in the column agrees that online teacher-student friendships can benefit education and cross (✗) it if not.

Task 2. Answer the questions.

1. According to Charol Shakeshaft, what kind of students will most probably send a private message to her?

The student who missed the learning opportunity and those who are shy.

2. Paraphrase the view "The teacher is not a pal, but an authority figure and an instructor who must keep a respectful emotional and social distance." by Josh Wolford from Star News Online.

Teachers are ~~authorities~~ boundaries but not friends.

3. According to Christine Greenhow, is it necessary to limit the communication between teachers and students? Why or why not?

No, because she thought that limit the communication only widen the gap.