

## ***Introduction***

Social networking sites are open to anyone however offer a low level of security and protection. Because students often post detailed and specific information, they can be more easily stalked by strangers or even acquaintances. The purpose of most of these networks is to allow individuals and groups to keep in touch and track the daily lives of each other. By keeping things at the status quo on the social networking sites, the result is a micro society of friends that is more open than ever before. However students don't often consider the dangers that social networking introduces to their lives. The content they place on the networks can easily make them vulnerable to all sorts of threats. Some of these threats are minor, but some can be incredibly severe. A photo shared between two people can quickly become a viral phenomenon. By using the text messaging service on their cell phones, computers or other electronic devices, teens engage in sexting by sending flirtatious messages back and forth. Sexting is currently illegal under federal law. It falls under the creation, distribution and possession of child porn and is a felony offense. While some lawmakers are working to change this, others are prosecuting both those taking the pictures and those possessing them.

## ***Learning Objectives***

After completing the program students will have a better understanding of social networking sites and the dangers they can introduce into their lives.

## ***Discussion Topics/Questions***

- 1) What are the benefits of Social Networking sites?
- 2) What are the dangers of Social Networking sites?
- 3) What should you not post on your site?
- 4) What is the impact from incriminating & inappropriate information posted on network sites?
- 5) What is the Impact on Schooling and Employment
- 6) Understanding Social Network sites
- 7) Is Sexting illegal?
- 8) The Felony charges associated with sexting

## ***Presenting The Program:***

To prepare a lesson plan for each program, please review the suggested outline below.

### **1) Before Students View the Program:**

If appropriate, assign a brief essay on the student's view of the subject. Have available as many recommended books as possible to help generate class interest and participation. Discuss as a group what each student's advice would be on the subject to other teens. Preview each program and become familiar with the concepts presented. Opinions will vary and no answer should be considered wrong.

### **2) Students View The Program:**

The first class viewing of the program should be uninterrupted.

### **3) After the First Viewing:**

Students should be prompted to discuss the views of the teens featured in the program. The students may be asked whom they agreed with most and who they disagreed with most.

### **4) Second Viewing:**

The second viewing will enforce and help the children remember the subjects that they have just discussed. Students may point out which featured teens opinion they agreed or disagreed with. This viewing may be interrupted as needed to facilitate discussion. Teacher or students may prompt the pausing of the program. The concept of solutions regarding the issues brought up by the students and the featured teens is important to this discussion.

### **5) Post Activities and Discussion:**

If appropriate - second brief essay may be assigned to compare the difference in the students opinion before and after the viewing and discussion. Discussion questions may be used to stimulate interest in solutions, reinforce concepts and evaluate student comprehension.

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# **The Real Life Teens Series**

## **Dangers of Social Media**

### **Teacher's Guide**

**Q391DVD**

This Program is designed for a general High School audience, grades 8- 12.