

Name _____ Date _____

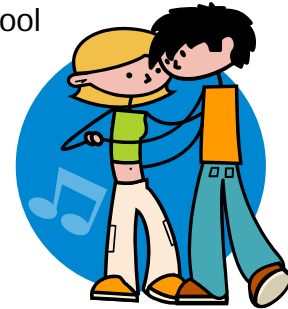
The Wisdom of teenagers

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8149967.stm> Adapted from BBC News 14.07.2009 © BBC MMIX

Scott Campbell co-edits his own news website, and wrote for the BBC Magazine.

A report by a 15-year-old work experience student at an investment banking firm, about teenagers and the media, says young people don't listen to the radio, go to the cinema or use Twitter. But are there other teenage habits that might come as a surprise?

When Matthew Robson, on work experience from his London school at US bank Morgan Stanley, was asked to describe his friends' media habits, he had little idea the impact his answers would have. His report has been the talk of web bosses and media analysts, and even caused a ripple at a conference in Idaho, US, attended by some of the world's leading figures in new media.



Although some of his findings were predictable - it was already well known that teenagers don't like to pay for music - he also said that teenagers find it hard too make time for television, don't like Twitter or traditional radio, and rarely go to the cinema. But beyond the world of new media, what else do teenagers do? Thirteen-year-old Scott Campbell, who lives in Aberdeenshire, gives his view.

ENVIRONMENT

Contrary to popular belief, the majority of teens are not particularly worried about the environment. There is a small minority of youngsters who are active in attempting to help the environment, but with homework, school, friendships and often a job, teens often do not have time to help the environment. Teens may also see that the gradually-worsening environment can have benefits (global warming brings warmer weather) at this current time, but often do not consider the future risks of not attempting to save it.

NEWSPAPERS

Teenagers have never been avid newspaper buyers. Today's young teens think the act of parting with up to £1 for the very same words that can be read absolutely free on a newspaper website, borders on the perverse. Why pay for something that's free? And the "old media" is not as interesting to teens as it used to be, as it is often late with coverage of important events. For example, the death of Michael Jackson was on the web within minutes, whereas it was only in the newspapers the next morning. This does not mean there is a lack of teen intellect, it instead means that the majority of teenagers are utilising

Name _____ Date _____

The Wisdom of teenagers

the knew forms of media. Teens will often read free papers such as the Metro, which also include celebrety gossip and shocking stories and are more interesting than stories about the economy or swine flu.

VIDEO NEWS

A large percentage of teens prefer to get their news from popular YouTube stars, such as Philip DeFranco (general, odd news) and Michael Buckley (entertainment news), as it is presented in a more human, conversational format. YouTube is incredibly interactive; coments can bee left and the presenter can be messaged; teens do not like a one-way conduit of information. It also takes out the inconvenience of having to trawl through news sources to try and find interesting stories, as news sorces are often "polluted" with uninteresting news, for example, about the credit crunch or the expenses scandal. Human interest stories witch either humiliate the subject or are particularly unusual are mostly preferred.

COMPUTER GAMES

While adults may think that computer games turn teens into gangsters, murderers and thugs (in a werewolf-like transformation), they do knot. Teens play games two take on the roll of the character that they are playing, and to try out the situations virtually. While games may provide the player to carry out acts which would be considered to be crimes, most games still provide the player with consequences to their actions, such as being arrested, and having weapons confiscated (in game, of course). The gamer will often begin to think morally about the situations when they take on the mantle of a particular character. Furthermore, meny games present teens with a positive influence, such as Guitar Hero, which I don't doubt has encouraged many teenagers to take up the guitar.

LAZINESS

The wide belief that teenagers are "lazy" and like to sleep in is not true. A large number of teens play sport, which regularly requires very early mornings. As well as this, most teenagers have to wake up earlier than the avarage adult worker to get to school on time. Also, a large amount of homework is set by multiple subject teachers, meaning that teens will have to stay up extra late to accomodate the extra tasks. Over the weak (and at weekends if sport is involved) a large lack of sleep will make most people want to have a long lie.

Kindly contributed by Dave Norgate, Bromley Adult Education College.

Name _____ Date _____

The Wisdom of teenagers

Read the article

A. In each set of four statements only one statement is correct according to the text. Tick the correct one.

1.

- a) The minority of teens are worried about the environment.
- b) The majority of teenagers are worried about the environment
- c) Most teenagers worry about global warming.
- d) Most teens are actively working to save the environment.

2.

- a) Teens would rather read an actual newspaper than a website.
- b) Teens might prefer the Metro as it contains gossip.
- c) Most teens do not have much intellect.
- d) Most teens prefer "old media".

3.

- a) Most teenagers are lazy and like to sleep.
- b) Many teenagers have to get up early to play sport.
- c) Many teens get up early to do homework.
- d) The average adult worker gets up earlier than the average teen.

4.

- a) Most teenagers are happy to pay for music.
- b) Teenagers spend a lot of time watching television
- c) Teenagers are not keen on the cinema.
- d) Teenagers are keen users of Twitter.

B. There are 15 spelling mistakes which are homophones (words that sound the same, but are spelled differently). Can you identify them and give the correct spelling.

C. There are also 10 other spelling mistakes. How many can you find?

The Wisdom of teenagers

Answers

ANSWERS

A

1. a)
2. b)
3. b)
4. c)

B.

bean
four
fined
too
their
sea
currant
red
knew
bee
witch
knot
two
roll
weak

been
for
find
to
there
see
current
read
new
be
which
not
to
role
week

C.

expeirence
particelarly
enviroment
celebrety
incredibly
coments
sorces
meny
avarage
accomodate

experience
particularly
environment
celebrity
incredibly
comments
sources
many
average
accommodate