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ENGL 1013

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Did Somebody Say, "Facebook"?

The World Wide Web has provided the world with many different types of amazing opportunities. Anyone can buy, sell, explore, and evaluate the world at the touch of the hand, but the most amazing thing it has provided is communication. It has opened up a whole new portal of understanding and succeeded in shrinking boundaries between people all over the world.

Facebook is one of many sites that have dedicated themselves to breaching the distances between the citizens of the globe. Facebook allows students around the globe to connect and stay in touch with one another in a relatively safe environment. After becoming part of the Facebook family, users are provided with a web page all their own to design and create an image of themselves to present to the world. Some of the applications Facebook uses to do this are the Information section, communication through The Wall and Messaging, and various other applications.

When first creating a Facebook page, users are provided with the opportunity to give an explanation of themselves to the world through the Information section. In this application, users are asked to give out contact information such as e-mail address, mailing address, or phone number if they wish for others to know how to get in touch with them. Then, users are asked to describe the activities they enjoy, along with their favorite music and movies. Quotes is an application where users can place their favorite quotes from famous people, friends, or movies. For example, on my personal Facebook page I have my favorite quote by Ingrid Bergman: "A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous."

Communication on Facebook is achieved through The Wall and Messaging. The Wall is a quick and easy way to drop a note to someone and is visible to anyone who reads the page. It provides for many funny conversations since other people can join in the fun and respond to the original two people in the conversation. For example, I have quite a few friends that attend UCA while I attend Arkansas Tech, and we frequently drop funny little notes on one another's walls to remind each other that we are loved. Messaging, however, is the private form of communication provided on Facebook. Communicating by messaging allows users to privately communicate with the recipient. I use messaging because of many funny instances when the "gossip columnists" of the world decided they would twist the meaning behind posts on other people's walls. Let's face it: if "Hey there, gorgeous!" was posted on a girl's wall by a guy, people are going to wonder what is going on when in reality it may be just a joke between friends. So people generally use messaging. It's better to be safe than sorry!

Facebook also offers many other applications that help users reflect their true personality. One application is Bible Verses, which allows users to display verses on their page that reflect their mood or are favorites of theirs. Another application is Music, which gives the opportunity to have specific songs posted on the page, and anyone viewing it can listen to the songs. For example, my friend Angela dedicated a song to me called "Studying Politics" by Emery because we always sing it together on long trips. My favorite of the random applications is Groups. This is where people on Facebook have created groups that are available to everyone on Facebook that are kind of like clubs. These help reflect political, ethical, and just goofy "stands" the user takes in the world. One of the groups I belong to on Facebook is "Every Teenager Can Be Defined by a *That 70s Show* Character." I joined this group because I am addicted to *That 70s Show*, and I think it is hilarious!

Facebook is a fun, relatively safe, and efficient form of communication on the Internet that allows people far apart to stay close. Also, through all of the applications (Information, The Wall, Messaging, and others), Facebook provides a “view of you” to the world.