

Writing, Technology, and Teens

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Our parents and grandparents have different expectations, and these expectations keep changing with time. The chances are that what is right for us won't work for our generations, and what we have now won't be sustainable in future. I got a chance to meet my grandmother and grandfather yesterday. I spent quality time with them and asked them a number of interesting questions about their teenage life. During our conversation, I had asked them what they used to write and how they fell in love. My grandfather smiled and said that he wrote various love letters to my grandmother before their marriage.

In fact, he used to write poetry too. I was lucky enough to check his writings, and that impressed me a lot. I could see that the stanzas he wrote in his teenage were incredible. Those were full of emotions and contained various impressive words and phrases. From his love letters too, I learned a lot about ancient writing style. In those days, the lines used to be lengthy and the people did not use short words (such as pls and gonna) to craft their works. In their article, Amanda Lenhart and Sousan Arafeh reveal that these days most teenagers spend their time composing texts and don't even think that what they create electronically is also part of writing.

I know that there was no trend of emails and instant messages in ancient times, and that's evident from the fact that my grandfather always wrote his love letters with his own hands. He told me that he was concerned about their timely delivery. He once posted a letter which took nearly two to five months to reach my grandmother. Anyways, his time as a teenager was quite simple and there were no worries or tensions at all. He kept writing plenty of letters to her and eventually improved his writing skills. Even today when my grandfather and grandmother write something, their writings look flawless and I must admit that I cannot write with this much perfection.

After some time, a friend of my grandfather arrived and I asked the same question to him. I was curious to know what he used to write in his teenage, and he told me that he mostly wrote short stories but didn't publish them at all. By nature, he was a simple and polite man who didn't let the world know about his writing skills. He then showed me some of his short stories and I was quite impressed by their flow. I must admit that his writing style could win him various awards but he did not pay attention to publishing any of his stories. He chose to keep them in his cabinet for a lifetime. This morning, on my way to school, I came across a bunch of friends and had a chance to sit with them and discuss some interesting things. I asked a lot of their writing styles as teenagers, and one of them told me that he loved to write text messages and send animations to his girlfriend.

That reminded me Amanda Lenhart, and Sousan Arafah's saying that the primary reason teenagers use smartphones and the internet is to exploit their communication. I could observe that today's teenagers and young people do not consider emails and instant messages a part of writing. Instead, they believe that these are just a source of communication. They keep crafting text messages whole day and find different words and phrases to depict their message. Another friend told me that he does believe that emails and instant messages have helped him improve his writing skills. He basically sells products and services online and often sends promotional emails to his customers.

The whole day, he keeps writing new texts to engage the potential clients. That is a continuous process and has helped him enhance his writing and mental capabilities. He is now able to write any type of text message, email or letter, and makes the wise use of words and phrases. When I checked some of his emails, I realized that he has polished his writing skills with time and can improve a lot more. Words are everything as they give meanings to our thoughts and ideas.

Sometimes the process of communication cannot be completed without words, and that's why we write letters, stories, poems, novels, books and other similar things to depict our feelings. Teenage boys and girls do not accept the fact that technology has negatively influenced the quality of their writing. Instead, they believe that technology has eased their lives and allowed them to interact with friends and family abroad. I feel that text-based technologies have ruined our lives to an extent because today we pay more attention to writing emails or instant messages than using a pen or pencil to craft something.

In ancient times, as per my grandfather and grandmother, the teenagers had flawless writing skills and knew how to use words and phrases wisely. That is because they had been using pencils, pens and other stationery to write something rather than digital devices. But today, things have been changed entirely, and our teenagers rely more on tech devices and text-based technologies than formal or traditional writing equipment. We should not forget that text is just a form of communication and has nothing to do with writing skills. Those who believe that they can improve their writing skills by crafting a lot of emails and instant messages should understand that there is no alternative to hand-written text. That is the only way for us to improve ourselves as authors and writers.

Teenagers think that if they are commenting on social media posts every day, they are doing something great. The only thing is we should not mix text-based technologies with traditional writing equipment or styles because there is a lot of difference between these two things. If you want to improve yourself as a writer, you should stop depending on digital devices or text-based technologies as they won't help you at all. Instead, you should buy a pencil or pen and keep writing as this will eventually help you improve. Our teens should opt for formal writing techniques for a number of reasons - as part of their school assignments, to get good grades, to

stay in touch with fellows, to share their artistic creation with their family, or to put their thoughts to papers. Instead of depending too much on computers, laptops, iPhones, iPads, and other similar products, they should spare some time and write with a pen or pencil as this is the only way for them to improve themselves.