

POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES OF INTERNET USE

POSITIVES

- Highly skilled at multitasking and making complex, immediate connections.
- Quickly access, create, swap and manipulate information on many levels.
 - At the one-to-one level, using email and IM.
 - At the one-to-many level, using blogs and web pages.
 - At the collaborative level, they using message boards and wikis.
- Make smart, a la carte use of technology - neither afraid of nor infatuated by the tools - simply select those which are useful to the task in hand.
- Highly suited to work in the knowledge economy, where applying knowledge, learning and access to information are keys to success.
- Easier to keep in touch with larger group of friends, spread out by geography.
- Learning important skills such as typing and writing by doing IM, texting and blogging.
- Shy people in person might be better able to communicate in IM or email.
- More freedoms online than in real world where freedoms are curtailed for teens.

NEGATIVES

- In open chat rooms or when posting to a blog, thoughts are out there for everyone in the world to see.
- Too much texting -- English writing skills can be hurt by all the abbreviations.
- Ergonomic problems of too much computer, texting time.
- Students spend time on school computers texting or posting to blog, when they should be doing school work.
- Students can cheat on tests by texting each other or photographing tests and sharing them.
- Reliance on texting or email rather than face-to-face or phone conversations.
- Anonymous "flaming" of other people, saying things online you'd never say to someone's face.
- Less inhibited conversation, people think they're in fantasy world but aren't!
- No matter how anonymous you think you are, you CAN be tracked down and ID'ed!
- Growing addiction to the technology and not being able to turn it off.
- Isolation from face-to-face contact despite contact electronically.