TEXT #4

The Negative Impact of Social Networking Sites on Society
By Dave Parrack, freelance writer, Internet columnist and blogger from Manchester, England

Date: April 12, 2012

Complexity Level: Measures at 1200L.
Conversational approach should make this article accessible to all high school students.

Source/Link: makeuseof.com, self-described as "a booming daily blog that features cool websites, computer tips, and downloads that make you more productive."

http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/negative-impact-social-networking-sites-society-opinion/

TEXT NOTES

This Internet text is intended to be paired with Text #5, to present students with an opportunity to read and analyze two accessible articles that represent opposite views of an area of investigation: the impacts of social networking sites on society. In this case, the comparison is made somewhat easier (and perhaps more interesting), because the articles are very conversational in tone, are *written by the same columnist* one week apart, and have a parallel organizational structure. As such, they neatly lay out how two sides of an issue may be viewed, even by the same person. Though both articles present rather personal opinions and points of view, they are also relatively objective analyses of different ways to view social networking, rather than strong arguments for either side of the issue. They should represent a foundation for, and contrast to, the more strongly and complexly presented arguments found in Texts#7-9, and the research study of Text #10.

Sample Text-Dependent Questions (to drive initial close reading and discussion):

1. Parrack discusses a number of ways in which social media may have changed human relationships in negative ways. What are two specific assertions he makes, and what evidence, if any, does he present to support his ideas?

2. Parrack concludes with an assertion that, "Most people would rightly refuse to walk around with a billboard attached to their front revealing all and sundry to the world. Yet we do just that on social networking sites." What does a close reading of this sentence, in relationship to the rest of his article, suggest he means?