Television has pushed Reality TV for a long time now and I have to admit, I am just another normal person that is engulfed with these exciting programs. Personally, I have grown up exposed to these shows which I enjoy, such as The Kardashians, HGTV shows, Teen Mom, and much more. You may ask, have they become a fantasy to me or just shows to watch when I’m bored? Well, I find them to be entertainment when I’m bored, but as a result I feel as though I begin to believe the lies of how the character’s lives are portrayed and I begin to lose touch with reality and how real life actually is. With so many series for every reality TV show, I know it is almost impossible to actually have cameras following the cast non-stop. The cast probably has a script for every person in the show. Reality TV shows only want their audience to continue watching their show and to boost the character’s fame. I believe they only show episodes that has mouth dropping drama. Sometimes I feel ashamed that I am a supporter of Reality TV shows. Why watch some other people’s life when I can be improving mine? It’s almost as if I’m paying them to live. Instead of watching Kendall and Kylie spend their day exploring the world and hanging out with their friends, why don’t I do the same rather than lying in bed? Instead of criticizing the teenagers on Teen Mom I should be living and improving my life. I guess sometimes life doesn’t seem as exciting as reality stars. For example, I don’t get lucky enough to go to fashion shows or have fashion shoots like Kendall and Kylie! However, reality TV shows give people a sense of fantasy and illuminate a nonexistent life, which may be even worse than what we believe to be our “boring” reality. Relating to this, I remember from English class that Ralph Waldo Emerson had said, “What I must do is all that concerns me.” From this, we can all take that we should focus on ourselves rather than focusing on the lives of others. Don’t you think our lives are just as fun? My friends and I can do almost anything we want without being judged by millions! We don’t have to stress over such things reality TV characters have to stress over! Embrace your life and live it to the fullest.

“IT’S LIKE I’M PAYING THEM TO LIVE.”
One time, my class played a game of charades and the person that I had to guess was Lil’ Wayne. I heard of this name before but I had no idea who he was. I asked if the person is tall or short, but honestly that did not help at all. In the end, I gave up and my classmates said to me, “How can you not know who Lil’ Wayne is?” My teacher responded back for me. My teacher said, “She doesn’t know, then she doesn’t know. There is nothing wrong with that.” I totally agree with what she said. There is nothing wrong with not knowing.

Sometimes there will be moments where you are sitting in a classroom at school or standing on line for lunch, and you hear people talking about some show, and you have no idea what they are talking about. Whether it is the newest song from a hot boy band or the premiere of a new show, sometimes you just cannot seem to understand their words. You do not know what show or the character they are talking about and you just sit there, acting as if you know. Do you feel like a loser, like an unpopular teen that can’t keep up with the latest trends or new hot topics?

Well guess what, knowing the latest new show does not make you cool or popular. Sure you may be able to have more things to talk about with your friends but what makes people cool is their personality and attitude.

Is it even fun for you to watch shows that you have no interest in just to have something in common to talk about? Why not watch your own favorite shows whether they are popular or not? Just watch whatever you want and enjoy the show you like. Conversations with friends do not have to be about a television show. It could be about the guy that you have a crush on or a hard assignment from a class. It could even be you introducing your favorite shows to your friends.

There are so many different cultures in this world for us to explore and each culture has its own type of entertainment. They can have different kinds of shows and programs. I personally watch my TVB dramas, which are dramas from Hong Kong and Korea. It is important to understand that it is not the popularity of a show that determines how much you like it, but what your own personal preferences are and where your interests lie.
When I was in the 4th grade I started playing games and one of my favorites was called “Adventure Quest Worlds.” The game made me feel like a superhero that I saw in cartoons and movies. Also it was fun because I was able to hang out with my friends online since I didn’t have a phone or anything else to communicate with them. It was a very adventurous time, fighting monsters with them as a team. As I grew older, I started playing other games like League of Legends, Battlefield 4, Skyrim, DFO, etc. All of those games made me feel free because it was like I was in another world doing the things I liked instead of school and no one was there to control me.

Later on in my sophomore year of high school, I started to feel that the excitement of games was no longer there; it started to die on me. Everything just started feeling repetitive and boring after playing for so long. That’s also the year when I discovered swimming and biking. I mostly swam during school because my school has a pool. I rode my bike mostly after school and on weekends. By doing things like swimming and biking, I felt less stressed and I got to go to many places on my bike with my friends. It was fun just taking out your bike and going to places far away from home. While biking I can talk with my friends about school and other things. When my friends and I biked to Manhattan from Brooklyn for the first time, we were really excited and worried at the same time since it was far from home. Each one of us brought a little bag filled with snacks. On our way there we had to stop to look at our phones and make sure that we were not lost. It was a really fun experience even though we didn’t really know what we were doing.
After experiencing sports and games in the past, I felt like sports were more beneficial, but not to say that games are bad and not beneficial, because they can be. Games helped me make new friends and were fun when it got cold outside. It helped me talk to people without being shy because I was behind a screen. But if I had to choose I will still choose sports. For example, swimming was fun, competitive and it helped train my body, while biking allowed me to hang out with my friends more in real life instead of online. Also, it helped me explore more parts of New York City that I never knew existed with just a bike and friends.

Both sports and games are good in their own ways, teaching you a lot of different things. In order to get the best of both worlds, I just need to control when to do sports and play games. Doing some sports can help me unwind, and I treat games like it was a dessert after some hard work. In the end, managing when to play games and do sports as well as all these other things in life is how you can get the best world.

Apple, Samsung, Note, or Galaxy
They all crash
Our brains can only store limited information
But with a click on your screen it'll remember your whole lifetime
Becoming friends and meeting people is easier online
But when we meet whoa! You look different
Technology is surely a faster way to search for information
Google is your best friend who has answers to all your questions
Without my phone I won't remember my mom or dad's number
Oh technology what would I do without you?

Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter
All my favorite Social Media that's how I spend my time
Let's balance our time and go out to play
Without texting our friends all day
It is wonderful how we advanced in life
I don't want it to become my addiction
Let's have motivation to keep the cell phone away during dinner
The objective is to shape the world and its innovations
To help everyone worldwide and every nation

New advanced technology is taking over the years
We should allow them in schools
Let's trade heavy textbook with eBooks
Go on the internet, what we are learning is incoherent
Let's put a stop I don't want to miss class
Go on the internet it'll be a blast
Take a seat let me teach you a way to explore
Where would it be a better place for me to stay?
Clear your mind let's find time to interact face to face
That's all in the past how I wish it back
But now we interact with phones and computers
There was this girl in my physics class who seemed really quiet. She had a lot of friends and was always smiling. We never really talked, but towards the end of the school term we started to exchange Snapchats and talked occasionally.

On a summer day, I noticed that it was her birthday so I snapped a "Happy birthday :)!", and from that point on, she became the reason for my best and worst times in junior year. She replied back, "Ha-ha, aw thank you," and we started talking 3 times a day. She wasn't a stranger anymore, and would send me Snapchats of her food, we would even rival against each other on who had the best food. We talked nonstop. It was crazy how a year ago, she seemed so insignificant, and a year later, everything was different. I felt so happy, but at the same time we were still distant and she was a mystery. I realized we wouldn't have class together the coming school year because of different interests and such. I started pacing around my room trying to figure out what to do. Eventually summer went away, and school was starting. Although we did not share a class, I would still see her in the halls.

However, I would ignore her because of my shyness. What's wrong with me? I thought.

Meanwhile we continued to Snapchat each other through out September, and as time went by I finally had the courage to say hi to her. She looked at me, raised her hand, and grinned, "Hi Jamie" Then, one night, she told me she was going to go to play handball. "Wanna come?" she asked. Making the first move, I liked how brave and honest she was. I dropped my phone on my face. "Yeah," I said, smiling like a fool. I soon turned into her #1 best friend on Snapchat.

We made plans, and the next day, everything was perfect. The weather was 70 degrees. We met up, and I didn't even have to dress up. I felt so natural with her. We talked about simple stuff, but I wanted to know her more. Just when I was about to ask, "What kind of music do you listen to?", she happened to walk away. When it was over, I went home, we talked, we snapped.

However, people in school soon knew that something was going on between us, probably because of how we always snapped each other, and how my name quietly crept up to her best friend list. Then a week later, she stopped talking to me. She sent me one snap of her food, and that was it. She must have heard a rumor about me, or her friends probably teased her. I wondered, if she now thought that I was a bad person? Does she think that I smoke or that I'm just playing her? I couldn't even confront her because if I did, we weren't close enough for her to believe me. I tried again to snap her, I told her that she would do fine on her exam. This time she snapped back, with a picture of her face. She wasn't smiling. "Thanks?" she wrote. Her face was full of judgment. I grew pensive. I always knew this day would come, and I realized how bad the situation was. Lose lose.

I talked to my friends at school. They said, "No. Let this be a test. Snap her one more time, and if she reacts in the same way, then let it be." In the end we stopped talking. Her name is still on my Snapchat list, but I never snap her anymore. It is no longer the same. I have come to realize that a relationship cannot only exist virtually. I think you have to really know someone in real life, to form a strong bond, and for them not to be influenced by other factors when it comes to forming relationships. She still exists, but summer was summer and the person she is now might not be the person she actually was or who I thought I knew through her snaps. Maybe one day we could start over. In person, I can still finally ask, "So what kind of music do you listen to?"

How Snapchat Sparked a Flame Yet Burned Me Out

by Jamie Chen
WHAT SOCIAL MEDIA ARE YOU?

Do you like to be the center of attention?

NO

What do you like to do on your free time?

Read/Have some alone time

Hangout with friends

Hangout with friends

Outgoing/Social

Introvert/Independent

Hangout with friends

What type of person are you?

You enjoy having your own personal time and venting feelings and thoughts on your blog. You enjoy updating and reflagging pictures/posts that are relatable to you.

You like to socialize with your friends and the people surrounding you, keeping them updated with the things that are going on around you.

You like to post pictures of yourself or things related to you to connect with others. You are a people person who want to be reached out to.

Even though Snapchat is a very social app, Snapchat creates a list of “bestfriends” who people tend to send pictures to. So it can be more reserved.

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WORD SEARCH

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