THE NEOMILLENNIALS VS. PREVIOUS GENERATIONS
Susanna Junyent

The natural process of a family is that the parents are responsible for the kids until they are 18 years old and able to be responsible for themselves. Traditionally when children are growing up, the parents show the kids day by day what is wrong and what is right, and how to do things. But with the neomillennial generation things have changed.

Parents do not know how to turn on the DVD for their children so the 4 year-old child turns on the DVD for his/her parents. This is the case with my brother who is four years old: he shows my dad how to manage the DVD player.

Another example is when a mother gets stuck with her cellphone and doesn’t know how to quit an application and asks her child, about 5 or 6 years old, how to do it. I saw that just the other day on the bus and it shocked me. It felt unnatural.

This can be seen as both positive and negative. The positive aspect is that Neomillennial kids learn technology really fast, things like DVD, game consoles, cellphones etc…

One negative point is that the natural way of parents teaching and showing their kids is lost in this perspective. So the fact that they are the parent/adult no longer means that they know more than the kid as the child is already familiar with all the new technology and the parent/adult may not be so.

On the other hand, neomillennial children grow up with all this technology which means that they feel familiar with it. For them it is something normal in everyday life, so it becomes a need too. This is in contrast to the adult, who did not grow up with technology and for whom it could be like a luxury, and s/he sees it as an extra.

In conclusion, the advance of technology makes lives easier in many respects and is an opportunity for neomillennial kids who grow up with it, but parents should be updated to be able to help the neomillenlial kids, because otherwise it could lead to an imbalance or disequilibrium.
MY BLOG: EXPRESSIONS & EMOTIONS

Hibak M. Dubad

It is safe to say that today’s youth use the internet a lot! But most importantly they use it as a tool to express themselves and the ways for doing that are many. Also, the youth today, have access to all kinds of different resources that can help us explain how we feel or even what we are doing at a certain point in time. I am no exception in this matter.

Although there is a huge variety in how and where we can express ourselves, websites like Youtube, Twitter, and Facebook are all tools with an aim for doing just that. However, I only use my blog! I do this by posts that lets the reader know how I’m doing and perhaps what I’m up to.

I’ve been blogging on a regular basis for nearly four years now and the sole reason for this is because I feel like it is the only way out there for me to express myself – without any rules or regulations attached to it. That is also why I think a lot of young people do this today, especially girls, as we get to formulate our own opinion in our own words. And just the freedom of being able to post almost everything you want appeals to the blogger as well.

I would say that the majority of teenage girls out there have their own blog and those that don’t, they at least read them. I think the reason for this is because of how easy it is to stay in connection to your own thoughts and opinions. I say this because the reader often tends to read blogs that immediately speak to them and so therefore, they feel like there is some type of understanding in what the writer is saying.

The “blog-world” is huge due to the fact that there are no specific age-groups needed to read or write a blog. Therefore almost anyone can take part in the many different topics or issues being addressed within them. I personally see this as a good thing as it widens and strengthens the target group of the readers or even writers.

In my blog I tend to express myself in a way that justifies my mood for one particular moment. I also include emotions and thoughts in my posts, as they explain how I feel the best. This can be done by just writing it down in words, or by posting a song that you feel is in relation to what you are going through. Basically anything that reflects the reality of your situation.

In contrast to this, I personally do not feel comfortable in giving away too much and that is why I make use of poetry and music in my posts for example, as they do not clearly state nor specify exactly how I feel and to what extent. This is a comfort in itself, because the blogger is aware of the fact that the only person that truly knows how he/she is feeling is the person themselves – leaving space for the reader to speculate and form ideas. Also, this is an underlying fact that most bloggers don’t speak about, as it will lead to the reader coming back to read your posts out of curiosity.

BLOGGING

Bekhta Allal

Blogging has become very popular in recent years. I don’t really remember the first time I was in contact with a blog, but I started my first blog at the beginning of 2007 and I’ve been blogging since.

Why do I do it? Well, there are so many different kinds of blogs out there. Fashion blogs, personal style blogs, private blogs about music, sexuality or pretty much anything you are interested in or feel you need or want to write about.
I started blogging mostly for my own benefit. Like a diary, but because it’s on the internet I don’t put my deepest thoughts in the blog. Blogging is for people to read! And that’s pretty much one reason – I want people to know what I’m up to. They may not be interested, but like I said before, blogs are for reading. And bloggers read other blogs.

How do I write my blog? It’s fun to write, it feels good to write down your thoughts though it may be very cryptic. I don’t want people to know everything about how I feel and I absolutely never put negative thoughts on my blog if I’ve for example have had a fight with a friend or just someone that I know, and this person reads my blog from time to time. Then this person would probably know what/who I’m talking about. So maybe I’ll put a picture (without text) from Google that expresses what I feel, but readers will just take this picture as any random picture. It sounds pointless but at least I get it out from my head.

I usually write my blog every day. Not always when I have a lot to do, but blogging is a way for me to put my thoughts down and that way I can go on with my day. So often I start by writing what day it is, what will happen or what has happened. I put pictures in and in the end I write in colours when I want to point out something, like something that I’m excited about or just a goodbye.

I have a diary where I put my absolute deepest thoughts, but blogging is a way for me to get my words out about what I feel and how I’m doing. I post my blog-address on Facebook and then I know for sure that people will read it. I don’t put stuff like “I have a problem with this person” or “I don’t know what I will do about this, because he’s so annoying” when it’s something that is going on right now. Close friends will ask what I’m talking about, and that person I may be writing about will probably read my blog because I posted the address on Face Book. So no, I don’t do it like that. I’m more secretive, I just put a small text in the beginning and then start writing about my day or whatever’s on my mind.

There’s also this thing that I discovered not so long ago – that I can put YouTube video clips on my blog. That way I can express myself even more – through music. I absolutely love music and lyrics and all that goes with it. So music for me is a good way to express. If I’m sad, happy or just like the song, it’s a good way to get your feelings through and show emotions. If I really want to point something out, but not make myself too obvious, I write a small piece from the lyrics of the song under the clip, and then that it’s a very good song, for example. I don’t like to be too obvious with what I feel. But by writing, being secretive and putting out video clips with songs, I get my thoughts out in a good way – people read even if they may not understand everything, but I get my word out and I won’t have to be carrying thoughts inside. But of course, I think that if something really bothers you or you have a problem, talk to your friends or just someone you feel you can talk to. I talk to my friends about anything really.

But writing in my blog is really a way for me to get my thoughts out, whatever I’m feeling for the moment, I just post it and then I’m done.

HOW DO HEALTH BLOGS AFFECT YOUNG GIRLS AND THEIR WAY OF LOOKING AT THEMSELVES AND THEIR BODIES?

Melika Medimagh-Svedjedal

The blogs being focused on are blogs which came up when the search words “Health” and “Anorexia” were typed in on the blog portal bloglovin.com. The blogs are being written by three different girls who represent different ways of looking at their bodies, health and losing weight. How do these three bloggers affect young girls with their way of writing and the pictures they post on their blogs? Which
blogger could have the most influence on girls wanting to lose weight - the anorexic blogger, the blogger who wants to lose weight, or the healthy blogger? In order to protect the bloggers, I have not written out their blog addresses.

Here are some quotes so that you can get a picture of their language and what they stand for.

The anorexic girl:

“*I’m sitting in school and I feel so fat. I gained one kilo today, exactly one kilo even thought I only ate one grapefruit and some prawns with lettuce leaves. Okay, I managed a few spoonfuls meat sauce straight from the pot on the stove as well, but it came up again straight away, in a plastic bag in my room. Fresh, as always.*”

The girl who wants to lose weight:

“*Thank you for your comments on different approaches but I don’t want to go on a diet. I don’t want to start eating different low calorie soups and start with different diets etc. I know that it would probably lead to even more weight loss but then I would also lose my purpose. I want to learn to eat healthy, just enough and right, not just lose weight as fast as possible.*”

The healthy girl:

*Today’s lunch was the classic spaghetti bolognese! I put a lot of grated carrot and tomato cubes to freshen it up a little but also to have some extra vitamins and nutrition.*

As is quite evident, the first blogger focuses a lot on her weight and what she is eating; she also gives us evidence that she has an eating disorder, with her last sentence “it came up again straight away”. Young girls who are thinking a lot about their weight, and what their body looks like, and who might already be on their way into an eating disorder, could get a “push” in the wrong direction from reading this blog. She tells us about her disorder in detail and it is quite interesting to see how she, through her blog, has all this control over herself and over every single calorie she eats in a day. When I started to look at the comments I saw that the girls (from what I can see, there are only girls commenting) reading her blog have the same thoughts as she does. They give her encouragement and agree with her point of view; some also ask her questions like “How do you manage to throw up? I’ve tried so many times but I’ve only managed a few times”. The girls commenting on her blog are about 13-16 years old.

The second blogger I looked at is a chubby girl who is trying to lose weight in a healthy way. She gives the impression that she really wants to live healthily but she is struggling with it. She explains that when she is feeling down, she eats, and that that is one of her biggest problems. This girl actually gives me the feeling that she is just trying to be healthy and that she is not interested in diets, or just eating nothing, which is something she says when people are giving her advice about diets and how to lose weight fast. On one of her posts, where she is comparing pictures of her body from March 8 and May 3, where she has lost approximately 2 kg, 27 girls commented. They are all happy for her and congratulate her and tell her to keep up the good work. I think this girl is a good role model for girls who want to lose weight in a healthy way. Unfortunately, I think that girls with body issues in the 10-15 age range would rather look at the first blogger than the second because young girls are usually impatient and do
not want to be healthy. Young girls, or young people on the whole, don’t like vegetables and “healthy” food, they would probably rather eat nothing.

The third blogger, the healthy girl is not, as far as I can see, talking about weight in her blog. She is more interested in being healthy and she is probably happy with her weight. She does not give any advice on how to lose weight, but more on how to give your “normal” food extra vitamins and nutrients. She has a lot of recipes on her blog for healthy dishes. Some of her recipes include “Creamy minced meat and spelt mix”, “Spelt-pizza” and Risotto. When I looked at the comments on this girl’s blog, I got the impression that the people reading her blog are also really into the healthy life, and many thank her for a good blog and tell her that she gives them good inspiration both on living healthily but also that they often use her recipes and get inspired by them.

After looking through the three blogs and the comments on them, I would say that the anorexic blogger could have most influence on young girls. The language she uses in her blog when talking about weight probably starts making young girls think about if their bodies are “normal”, if they should lose some weight, if they are fat, what other people think of them and things like that. This blogger really stands out from the other two, which makes her blog the blog you read. People want to read something that stands out, and since she is so shocking in what she says, she is probably the one with the most influence on young girls than the other two, who I think influence older girls.

ONLINE ART AND MUSIC

Victoria Kawashima Altice

The internet provides a blank canvas for anyone to showcase practically anything they want. One thing many people online post is their music and art. This allows people to not only express themselves, but also to show the world what they enjoy and receive comments and criticism from all different points of view.

I feel that posting music or art that you create online is less intimidating than showing it in real life. The internet seems like a place where people won’t judge as much because they don’t look at you face-to-face. Sites that are specialized for music and art give everybody a fair start. When I’m on those websites, I can imagine somebody on the other side of the net working on their latest creation; spending long hours getting ready to present it for all to see. I can feel the hard work that’s put into the finished result, and I become motivated to try writing one myself. You can feel the emotion put into the song through the screen if that person has put in the effort. I go online to watch people sing sometimes, to brighten up my day. Or if I’m feeling blue, I can find the words I can’t find in myself, in somebody’s song. The internet is more than a talent show. It lets people be more honest and the artist more relaxed. Because, really, what’s there to lose?

It can be a place where people care purely about the music as compared to the person that sings it and how famous they are. Because people worldwide have such a variety of tastes and styles, the internet is also a place to be inspired. And if you get inspired, it’s possible that you are simultaneously inspiring someone else, and that’s always a good thought. People upload songs about anything and everything. When they’re sad, happy, frustrated, inspired, or even hungry. Whether it’s the melody to a song, or the way they sang it so passionately, inspiration from it can help you over the block and on with your endeavours.

An artist could also get recognized online. Singers recording their songs and uploading them for their own pleasure can be seen by recording labels everywhere. And it doesn’t matter where you start;
a good voice is a good voice. Many artists online develop a fan base large enough to fill the sea and some even tour the country.

With all the support from people online, the internet is a place to inspire and be inspired; to listen, and to be listened to.