Social Networking:
Making the Connection to Generation Next
Leader's Guide

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Lesson Objectives

- Identify the difference between digital natives and digital immigrants.

- Identify the different generations: Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Generation Next.

- Identify names of social networking websites.

- Identify the importance of staying connected as you age.

- Recognize ways to keep personal information safe when using the Internet.

Intended Audience

FCE groups, youth, adults of all ages, anyone with an interest in social networking, anyone who wants to assist someone else with social networking.

Preparation

- Review this leader's guide (MF2982) and the fact sheet, *Social Networking: Connecting to Generation Next* (MF2981). A slide show is also available by sending an email to *staylor1@ksu.edu*. The slide show covers the materials in the fact sheet, and can help guide a group through the program.

- Obtain copies of the fact sheet.

- Become familiar with social networking websites: *facebook.com, myspace.com, classmates.com, eons.com, edlr.com, or growingbolder.com.*

- Copy and distribute to participants the "Are You a Digital Immigrant or Digital Native" quiz on page 3. Provide pens or pencils for participants.

- Copy and distribute the evaluation on page 4 for participants.

Suggested Program Presentation Guide

- Begin with an icebreaker. Ask: "When you think of social networking, what do you think of?"

- Review the definitions of terms: digital native, digital immigrant, Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Generation Next, text messaging, instant messaging, social network.

- Bring pictures of different social network website logos to show participants.

- Go over important points in the fact sheet: staying connected as one ages; health, and how it relates to social connection; how to stay safe online.

Suggested Activities

- Take a field trip to a library computer lab or other computer lab. Use a computer to explore or join different social networking websites.

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- Hold the class during a break from school and invite grandchildren or other youth to assist participants in signing up for a social networking website.

- Ask a business teacher or computer teacher to talk about how social networking sites can be used.

Glossary of Terms

Silent Generation — Those born before WWII, between 1925 and 1945. Some members of this generation grew up during the depression, and are the parents of the baby boomers.

Baby Boomers — Those born after WWII, between 1946 and 1964. These are the parents of Generation X.

Generation X — Those born from the mid 1960s to about 1981. These are the parents of Generation Next.

Generation Next — Those born after 1982. Mostly born during the digital age, this generation is no older than 30 in 2012.

digital native — A young person born between 1982 and 2003, during or after the introduction of digital technology. They have used digital technology to communicate with family and friends ever since they were very young, and are usually comfortable with using technology to communicate.

digital immigrant — A person born before 1982, prior to the introduction of digital technology and adopted it later in life. Not all digital immigrants are inept at using technology. These users fall into three categories: avoiders, reluctant adopters and eager adopters. Avoiders may use only a minimal amount of technology (for example, a landline phone and a television). Reluctant adopters often see ways that technology might be needed in their lives, but they try to avoid it when possible (examples: send letters instead of email, basic cell phone). Eager adopters have enthusiasm or a talent for technology that makes them similar to digital natives. Similarly, not all digital natives are comfortable with technology.

text messaging — Text message are short (160 characters or less) messages sent between two mobile telephones. This type of message is most often used between two private mobile phone users as a substitute for a voice call.

instant messaging — A form of real time text-based messages between two or more people using personal computers, via an Internet connection.

social network — Social network sites are Web-based services that allow users to construct a public or semi-public profile within the system. Users share unique information through their profiles, including interests, hobbies, favorite music and movies. Social network users connect with people they know in real life by "friending" them. These "friends" then have access to each other's profiles and can communicate through the social network site.

Quiz Scoring

Column 1 (Digital Immigrant)
If you answered "Yes" to 12 to 15 of these questions, you are a digital immigrant. Few or no digital natives can communicate with you.

If you answered "Yes" to 9 to 11 of these questions, you are a digital immigrant. Most digital natives can communicate with you with effort.

If you answered "Yes" to five to eight of these questions, you are a digital immigrant with an accent. Most digital natives understand you.

If you answered "Yes" to four or fewer of these questions, you are either a digital native, or a digital immigrant with very little accent.

Column 2 (Digital Native)
If you answered "Yes" to 12 to 15 of these questions, you are a digital native or are an immigrant with very little or no accent.

If you answered "Yes" to 9 to 11 of these questions, you are a digital native with an accent; however, everyone can understand you perfectly.

If you answered "Yes" to five to eight of these questions, you are a digital immigrant with an accent. Most digital natives understand you.

If you answered "Yes" to four or fewer of these questions, digital natives might have a hard time communicating with you.

QUIZ: Are you a Digital Immigrant or Digital Native?

___ Do you print your email?

___ Do you print documents to edit them?

___ Do you read the text before looking at the pictures?

___ Do you prefer to do one thing at a time?

___ When you want to learn, do you set aside time for serious work?

___ Do you want to learn new things step-by-step and all at once?

___ Do you often dial a phone?

___ Have you ever called someone to see if they received your email?

___ Do you like silence when you're trying to learn?

___ Do you believe that fundamentals of your subject are the most important "things" to learn?

___ Do you prefer your reading materials to be linear and sequential?

___ Do you prefer to use the same computer and/or software every time when you have to complete a digital task?

___ Does this kind of writing drive you nuts?! "BTW. AYT? Can u rd splng n ur txts?"

___ Do you feel a little "freaked out" when you hear words like Blog, Glog, Tweet, Web 2.0 or .jpg, .html, .mp3?

___ Do you wish students could just learn like you did when you were in school?

___ Do you wonder why anyone would print an email?

___ Do you do every draft from first to last on the computer and maintain only one copy of any document?

___ Do you look at the pictures before reading the text?

___ Do you listen to music, check your email, and chat at the same time?

___ When you want to learn, do you find a game to play?

___ Do you want to learn new things by trying out any/everything you can think of with no directions? (Just give me the web address and go away.)

___ Do you rarely dial the phone, vastly preferring to text message?

___ Are you sure that if the email you send doesn't bounce back, the recipient got it, whether or not you get a response?

___ Do you like to listen to music and/or watch videos (that may or may not be related to the content you're using) while you learn?

___ Do you believe that the fundamentals of your subject can all be found anywhere at any time by just about anyone?

___ Do you prefer your reading materials to be hyperlinked and dynamic?

___ Can you use any computer or software to complete a digital task as long as it is online?

___ Is this txt k w/u?

___ When you hear words like Blog, Glog, Tweet, Web 2.0 or .jpg, .html, .mp3, do you know exactly how to find out what they mean?

___ Do you wish your teachers would teach the way you learn outside of school?

http://urenglishteacher.blogspot.com/2009/06/are-you-digital-native-or-digital.html

Social Networking: Making the Connection to Generation Next — Evaluation

Date of Program: _____

Program Location: _____

Instructor: _____

1. Because of my participation in *Social Networking: Making the Connection to Generation Next*, I learned something new.
(Circle one.) **Yes** **No**

2. If yes, what did you learn?

3. Because of your participation in this program, do you plan to take any action or change anything in your life?
(Circle one.) **Yes** **No**

4. If yes, what will you change?

5. For the following questions, please place a check in the appropriate box.

	Definitely true	More false than true	In between	More true than false	Definitely true
Because of this program, I have more positive feelings about this topic.					
Overall, I rate this program as excellent.					
Overall, I rate this instructor as an excellent teacher.					

Please send evaluations to: Sarah Taylor, K-State Research and Extension – Sedgwick County, 7001 W. 21st St. N, Wichita, KS 67205