



Teacher Resource

Social Media Age

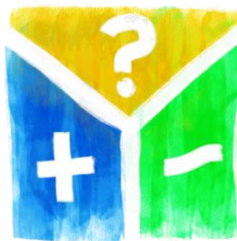
Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What was the main point of the Social Media Age story?
2. Why does Peter Dutton think children under the age of 16 shouldn't use social media?
3. What are some pros and cons of social media?
4. How would you feel about not using social media until you turned 16?
5. How has your thinking changed since watching the BTN story?

Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Social Media Age story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was positive, negative or interesting?



Activity: Class discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Social Media Age story. Focus the discussion on the pros and cons of social media. Students can record the information on a T Chart.

What are the benefits of social media?

- Improves communication skills.
- Helps you stay connected with friends, classmates and people with similar interests.
- Improves your digital skills.



What are the disadvantages of social media?

- You may feel like you are missing out on things.
- It can make you feel bad about yourself.
- Cyber bullying
- Exposed to information that is not suitable for your age.

EPISODE 18

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KEY LEARNING

Students will explore the pros and cons of social media and write a persuasive text about whether kids under 16 should be banned from using social media.

CURRICULUM

Digital Technologies – Years 5 & 6

Plan, create and communicate ideas and information, including collaboratively online, applying agreed ethical, social and technical protocols.

Health & Physical Education – Years 5 & 6

Practise skills to establish and maintain relationships.

Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing.

Activity: Persuasive Text

Students will explore the issues raised in the BTN Social Media Age story and develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: *'Kids under 16 should be banned from using social media'*.

Before starting the activity, discuss with students the pros and cons of social media.

Persuasive writing

Students need to weigh up the pros and cons of the issue then write a short persuasive argument using the following as a guide.

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers, or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this *Read Write Think* [persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue?
Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- What did you learn from this activity?

Activity: Mini debate

Alternatively, students may want to prepare a mini debate. Use the following as a guide when preparing for your classroom debate.

- Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1-2-minute speech for a mini debate on the topic.
- One person will speak for the affirmative and the other will speak for the negative.
- Before students begin to construct their argument, ask them to record what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Students then research the topic to gain a greater understanding of the issue.

- Ask students to list their arguments in point form on paper (without their partner seeing them). When they have done this, ask them to choose the five best points that will form the basis for their debate.
- Students will write in point form, their debate on cards that fit into the palm of their hand. Their debate needs to have an introduction (introducing the topic), middle (three main points) and a conclusion (restating their position). Students practise their speech and then present the mini debate to other students.

Guide for giving feedback

- Was the information clear and accurate?
- Were the arguments logical?
- Were the counter arguments accurate and relevant?
- Comments about the presentation style (tone of voice, body language, enthusiastic, convincing).

Reflection

- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- Did my opinion change?
- What did you learn from this activity?

Activity: Class poll

Hold a poll in your class. Students will conduct their own opinion poll on the issue of whether there should be a ban on kids under 16 using social media. Working in groups, students will need to decide who their sample group will be and how many people will be polled. What method will they use to conduct the poll? (Face to face interviews or written responses). Ask students to graph the opinion poll results and then reflect on the results.



Activity: BTN Social Media Stories

Watch these BTN videos to help students understand more about the issues associated with social media.



[BTN Age Verification Trial](#)



[BTN Kids Smartphone Age](#)



[BTN Phone Detox](#)



[BTN Social Media Negativity](#)



[BTN Social Media Anxiety](#)



[BTN Instagram for Kids](#)

Useful Websites

- [Social Media Warnings](#) – Newsbreak
- [Social Media Ban](#) – Newsbreak
- [Social media age limits might be popular with politicians and parents, but experts warn they aren't simple](#) – ABC News
- [Age Verification Trial](#) – BTN
- [Using social media safely](#) – NSW Education Department