

TRANSCRIPTS OF STUDENT NARRATIVES

Note: I have omitted filler words (such as “um,” “er,” and “ah”) from these transcripts. I have also added my interpretation of punctuation.

Rose

Hi, my name is Rose and I have a social me— the social media accounts that I have are Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest, and Snapchat. Yeah, I think that’s it. And as far as deciding what I want to post where, I have to think about my audience because I’m Facebook friends with a lot of my family, so if I want to maybe vent about something with my family, I obviously can’t go to Facebook. I have to go to Twitter or usually Tumblr, and—usually Tumblr is where I go when, like, I really need to vent about things. It’s probably the one that I use the most, even though I end up deleting a lot of those kind of angry posts sometimes. And then, Twitter is usually where I will try to go to talk about different social issues, because then so many people can just retweet the little blurbs and it gets places farther. And, as far as rhetoric goes with these social media sites, I’ve really been learning a lot about thinking about, you know, our audience, and what type of message I’m trying to show, or how I want people to think of me. Like, I tend to post a lot of like inspirational and happy things because I want people to think that I’m a happy person, and I want everyone to feel as happy as I do. And I think that’s really the main thing with rhetoric that goes along with social media for me.

Betsy

I’m Betsy, and the social media sites that I have profiles on include Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Kick, Pinterest, Skype, Vine, Hot or Not, and Yik Yak. When I decide what I want to post on social media, I have to understand my audience and who I’m speaking to. If I’m on Facebook, I have to monitor myself because I have family, and family friends, and people that my mom work with on there, and a lot of people that may or may not judge me. On Twitter, I usually don’t have to monitor myself as well because I have a wide variety of audience and the people that I can open up to, because they don’t really judge me ‘cause most of them don’t know who I am. So, when I post on social media, I take into account who I’m talking to, and the things that I say, whether they’re going to be popular, or if they’re just going to be me ranting, and such things as that. I do sometimes post the same content on multiple websites, if I have a picture on Instagram that I want to use as a profile picture on Facebook I do so, or if I have some “miracle quote” that I want to post, I’ll post it on multiple websites so I can have a wider variety of audience members knowing what I am posting. What I’ve learned from rhetoric is how to choose my audience and what I want to say, and deciding who—[under breath] I don’t know what I’m trying to say—deciding what’s best to say to who and when, and knowing my purpose, and I’m a lot more aware of what I’m saying now that I’ve learned more about rhetoric and composition and writing throughout my freshman—my beginning of my freshman year of college.

Sarah

My name is Sarah and I have social media sites on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, Vine, YouTube, and SnapChat. When I decide to post something on a social media site, I think about who is going to see it. When I'm on my Instagram or my Twitter, I feel more comfortable and safe to post things, rather than on Facebook because I know my parents won't see it. I post a lot more—I post a lot of photos on Instagram and most I share to my Facebook and Twitter accounts also. Through studying rhetoric, I feel like I've learned how to appeal more to my followers and friends. I now understand how on one social social media site may appeal more to a specific audience.

Madison

I'm Madison, and I currently have profiles on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Vine, and Snapchat. When I go about posting things online, I generally just do stuff to, like, communicate with friends, because I have a lot of friends that I've made outside of, like, states and stuff that I like to have them keep up, because they can't always text, and just sending them things through text, I can also collect up data. So, I usually just like to keep up with my stuff by saying like, "Hey, I'm in Disney, what are you doing right now?" through like Instagram or Facebook, and then, like, I generally don't post a whole lot on Twitter, just because it's just—Twitter is Twitter, you just...there's no other way to describe it. It's like: "Hey, I'm eating a bagel, I hope—just thought you might want to know." And I don't—on Facebook, with not posting things, if I think I'm going to get in trouble by like family, I shouldn't post it anyway, because, like, current job users I try to friend on Facebook to say like, "Hey, I'm a good person, you can look at my profile—hint, hint, take me for this job." So, like, that's kind of where the rhetoric comes in it, like it's just describing my character through my pathos and ethos, saying like, "Hey I'm, like, generally a happy person, I'm a good person, like, I'm reliable, I don't post things I shouldn't put." And, yeah [laughs].

Jeanna

Hi, I'm Jeanna, and I have social media accounts on the sites Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Pinterest, Instagram, Wanelo, Yik Yak, and Tinder. It actually depends on who the audience is when I post on—whether I post on Facebook, like, I used Facebook when I wrote, like, my book to promote it to my friends and my family. But if I want to complain about my friends and my family, I'll usually go to Twitter, or if I'm embarrassed about something, I'll usually use Yik Yak because it's anonymous. I didn't realize how rhetorical social media could be until I started to learn about it, and I now, I realize why we use certain things—certain social medias for different audiences.