

Digital Citizenship: Music Integrated Lessons

Lesson Title: Facebook Friends

Grade Level: High School



Essential Question:

How does social media affect your life?

Materials

- Lyrics and soundtrack to “Facebook Friends” by Brad Paisley

Discussion Guidelines

1. Review the concept of a **social commentary** song that uses humor and how humor is created through commonalities: we need to have experienced the same things that are mentioned in the song in order to find the humor or “get” the joke.
2. Distribute the lyrics to and listen to the recording of “Facebook Friends” by Brad Paisley. Ask students if this is a social commentary song and have them explain their reasons. What is the message of the song? How does the singer convey the message? Is humor used? Which works better, social commentary with humor or with a serious bent? Provide examples to explain your answer.
3. Tell students they will have a set amount of time to work on writing their social commentary song. It can use humor or a relevant story to communicate the message. Review the requirements for each social media social commentary song:
 - The name of the site
 - The purpose of the site
 - How people use the site
 - The “buzz words” of the site
 - What makes someone “fluent” in the language of the site?
 - How it makes the people who post things feel
 - How it makes observers feel
 - A message about the social media
4. At the end of the allotted time, have students share with the group the social commentary lyrics they have created. Ask the writers about the genre of music (such as rap, country, hip hop, etc.) they thought would work best for their song lyrics.
5. Ask the group to identify the message delivered by the social commentary.
6. Discuss how all of the songs describe ways social media affects our lives.

Conclusion

Why is it important to think about the ways social media affects our lives and the decisions we make?

Facebook Friends

By Brad Paisley

She was looking at shoes on Amazon
A pop-up ad said, "Find anyone"
She thought about the first boy that she loved
Just a couple clicks and there he was

That night she sent a friend request
The next day she sat down at her desk
And four simple words "Hey, how you been?"
And she felt 17 again

And that's the thing about Facebook friends
It doesn't matter how long it's been
Someone you never thought you'd ever see again
And suddenly you're Facebook friends

They started out just catching up
That led to meeting him for lunch
For long they're meeting in some bar
For long they're kissing in some car

And that's the thing about Facebook friends
It doesn't matter how long it's been
Someone you never thought you'd ever see again
And suddenly you're Facebook friends

Oh if there was anybody else
She'd be sittin' in judgment
Thinking they should be ashamed of themselves
For God's sakes you've got a husband and a minivan

And this was not part of a plan
She fantasized they'd start a new life
He'd finally up and leave his wife
But one day she turned her laptop on
And his whole profile page was gone
And that's the thing about Facebook friends