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Period 8

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Have you ever heard of Friendster? Probably not. How about MySpace? Would you believe that MySpace was actually founded by Chris Dewolfe and Tom Anderson because they were dissatisfied with the social networking website Friendster? Well, these friends really showed Friendster because it’s now worth over $900 billion dollars. However, in this speech, I’m going to explain why students should not have a MySpace account. I’m going to explain my position, and then rebut the arguments my opponents may say. So if you want to stay safe from stalkers, creepers, and even the government, you’d better listen up!

First of all, MySpace is a social networking site and it brings together millions of people that may otherwise never meet—but that doesn’t mean you should meet them! MySpace hosts over 40 million users according to its main page and the majority of them—46% are over the age of 45. Only 18% of the users are ages 14 and under. Do you know who is looking at your page? With each page getting an average of 50 hits a day according to myspace.com, chances are there are about 25 people over the age of 45 looking at your page. Who are these people? And what do they want?

Next, MySpace does not have sufficient security to keep your information safe from predators and strangers. According to the safety settings, it is impossible to be completely private. Even if you hide your profile, there is no way to hide your picture, name, and age, when people search for you. Also, MySpace is selling your information for profit. How do you think it makes any money? MySpace collects all of the information you put into it and shares it with advertisers so they can put ads on your page you’re more likely to click. That sounds like spying to me.

Finally, MySpace is outdated. If you want to connect with friends, there are way more people at different websites. Like Facebook! There are so many people on Facebook that if it was a country, according to [www.ap.com](http://www.ap.com), it would be the third largest in the world. Facebook also has games you can play on it, like Farmville, and Myspace doesn’t have any. Lastly, Facebook has a chat option that lets you instant message your friends. You won’t see that on Myspace.

Now, some people argue that MySpace is only as safe as the person who uses it; if the user is taking the proper precautions, then why shouldn’t they have a page? Proper precautions are things like making your page restricted from non-friends. However, even if a person is not your friend, they still can see your picture, age, hometown, and, in some cases, message you. Another precaution is making other users provide an email or last name to be able to add you as a friend; however if your page is not restricted, they can still get information about you from your wall posts, blog entries, and “About Me” information.

Also, other people argue that MySpace is a way to connect with people from all over the world and can be an educational tool and its use shouldn’t be denied just because of age and safety concerns. Well, there are a lot of other ways to connect with people all over the world. Think about chatrooms, other websites, email, and Skype.

Today I explained that MySpace users aren’t always who you think they are, its safety features aren’t always that safe. I also proved that even the safest users can’t keep themselves completely safe, and that better educational tools exist online to get to know people from different areas. So don’t be like the 87% of Americans who have been bullied, harassed, or stalked at least once online in their lifetimes. Say no to MySpace.