

OP: The Social Reality
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When it comes to social media people like to believe that it holds no real meaning, not does it trickle over into real life. However, from my own anecdotal experiences I have found that not to be the case. Social media plays a big part in the way of which people choose to view the world, even though people interpret that role very differently. Another thing is that people seem to believe that all social media serves the same general purpose, when that is not the case.

For example, the use of Instagram and the way in which it is interpreted is specific to the platform itself. People use Instagram as a way to portray the image of themselves they want the rest of the world to believe is really them. When in all actuality very few people post pictures of their “true selves” on Instagram. Most of the pictures portray people showing off how happy and amazing their life is, or to uphold an aesthetic they believe fits their personality the best. Whether it be a relationship being portrayed or an individual person, we only show what we want the world to believe.

Even though people say that what they do on Instagram doesn’t trickle into their lives, that is false. In actuality, people put on the same façade on a day to day basis. People are constantly trying to put on what they believe to be a brave face. No one honestly says how they’re really feeling when asked. People are just as artificial and isolated in real life as they are on Instagram.

However, when it comes to the discussion of Twitter and Tumblr the perception is so much different. Twitter and Tumblr are the safe havens of the social media world. On these platforms, people are as free as they want to be, in what pictures/videos they post and the statuses that they make. For some reason people feel so much freer in their ability to do these things on this platform, but why is that? I think it’s because Tumblr was created for the purpose of being a place where the outcasts could find each other, and Twitter was created to allow people to speak their minds. But in the Twitter and Tumblr universe, you find a sense of humanity in people and everyone seems to understand that we’re all going through the same things and that no one is in this alone.

However, unlike Instagram this does not trickle over into the real world. People are not as open and honest as they seem to be on Tumblr and Twitter. I saw a tweet the other talking about the way women support other women on Twitter, and how it isn’t shown in the real world. Granted it’s the internet and it’s a lot easier to find people online who believe what you believe, opposed to how difficult it is to find those people in reality. But, that doesn’t give the excuse to not be honest and vulnerable like we are on these platforms. If anything it should open our eyes and show us that we aren’t alone, which should make people want to be better human beings in the real world.

Two platforms that seem to be real in reality and online, would be LinkedIn and Facebook. Facebook is typically used as a way to show family and old friends what your life is currently like. It's a little more professional than Twitter, Instagram and Tumblr. While LinkedIn was created to display the professional, career side of an individual. It seems that the only way that people can be genuine online and in reality is when it comes to business and being professional. When in all actuality, the world would probably be a better place if everyone was as open and authentic as Twitter and Tumblr. But then again, there's no such thing as a perfect world, people will always be contradictory in some aspect. Like my professor said, if humans weren't contradictory the world would be a pretty boring place.