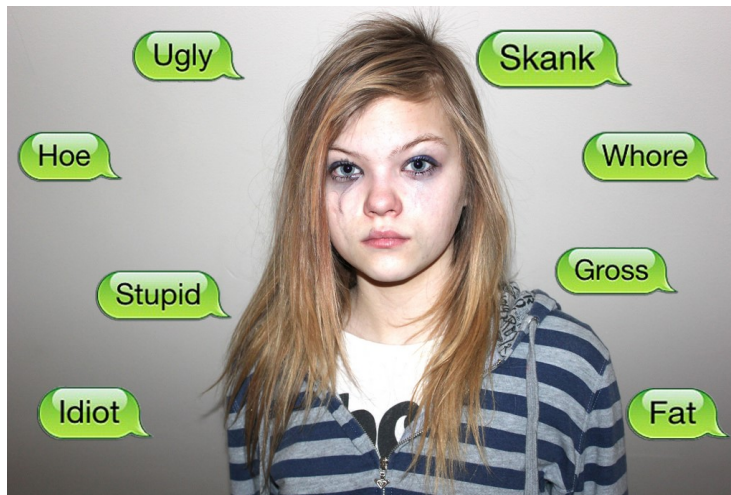


WRITE INTO THE DAY

ONLINE PRIVACY

FEBRUARY 6, 2016, 8:30-9:00 AM

We'll write for 20 minutes and share snippets from our writing for ten minutes.



On January 30, 2016, two Virginia Tech students, age 18 and 19, were arrested and charged with first-degree murder and accessory to murder of a 13-year-old girl. One of the two individuals arrested exchanged electronic communication with the deceased via the instant messaging app Kik. Hours before sneaking out of her bedroom window, the 13-year-old told friends she was planning to meet an 18-year-old boy with whom she was chatting. The murdered girl's mother reported her daughter was "bullied on social media and at school" due to her weight and a tracheotomy scar.

What do you think about this case and other similar cases? Should schools monitor students' private social media activity? Should parents monitor their children's social media activity? Some social media apps are designed for ephemeral communication, such as Snapchat. However, there are also monitoring apps, tools, and services that schools and parents can use to intercept private messages. Should schools and/or parents use smartphone spying apps or services? Why or why not? How much privacy should teens have in the digital age? How much privacy did you have as a teen?