

# OPINION

## Facebook vs. Twitter— Which Provides Easier Communication?

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Contributing Writer

It is undeniable that Facebook and Twitter are among the most used social networking sites, yet both are very different in terms of the way users communicate. Admittedly, I have been a Facebook user far longer than a Twitter user, but overall I believe that Facebook provides a much more effective way to communicate with others online.

The way in which the two social media sites allow users to communicate are very different. Facebook was created with the intention of bringing people together who have lost touch with one another, while Twitter is a type of social media that seems to be best used to link people with common interests. Through Facebook, users are able to communicate via posting statuses, photo albums, videos, “wall” messages, and private messages. In contrast, Twitter users are able to communicate through posting messages to others by using an “@” sign followed by the user’s name (for example @leamichele). Twitter users can also communicate by linking familiar “tweets” to each other through “hashtags”—a “#” followed by the term a user would like to have linked to the others (for example:

@leamichele I loved the last episode of #GLEE!). Therefore, in order to operate on Twitter users must learn new lingo, but Facebook does not require learning new web-language.

One of the greatest differences I noticed between the two social media websites is where the user messages are posted, which can alter effectiveness of the online communication process. Facebook messages that users post to others are shown on the other person’s Facebook page, whereas on Twitter anything a user says to another person is posted on the user’s Twitter page. Furthermore, Facebook also provides a “wall-to-wall” feature that allows users to better understand their messages between each other

*“I believe that Facebook is more effective than Twitter for online communication.”*

amongst the many other posts. I have yet to discover a similar feature on Twitter. Users on Facebook are also sent notifications to easily access any new messages sent and Twitter lacks a comparable asset. In fact, with my experience with Twitter I have had a difficult time figuring out when I have been tagged in a post unless I am constantly checking the home page—which it seems is how many Twitter users spend their day. With that said, keeping up with Twitter is difficult as some users tend to “tweet” all throughout the day. To combat this issue, Facebook has both a “Top News” and “Recent News” where users can see either the most popular posts or the most recent, respectively.

Clearly, considering the ease of use and different channels of communication, I believe that Facebook is more effective than Twitter for online communication. I am aware that Twitter can be beneficial for communicating online; however, Facebook provides a more simplistic, direct way to communicate through various ways such as posting statuses and sending messages.

## Looking for More...

Stephanie Hillmann, Contributing Writer

As my senior year at Meredith is coming to a close I find myself thinking back on the many convocations I attended throughout the years. It is hard for me to pinpoint a particularly useful one, or one that had a great impact on my life. I find myself to be greatly disappointed in that realization. Since we are required to attend a certain number of convocations, I feel that the events should be catered more toward the student population and our bright careers after Meredith.

As a Mass Communication major I believe that the convocations I attended did not help to guide me in my future and had very little influence on my life after college. I understand the importance of being culturally aware and recognize that we have had some amazing speakers, but I wish that we would have been given the opportunity to hear from the many successful alumnae of Meredith and what they accomplished after graduating.

A few weeks ago my Writing for the Media class was given a wonderful opportunity to hear from an alumna of Meredith. Brenda Hughes, '70, spoke to our class about her experience and time spent at Meredith, how she broke into the news industry, and how we too can accomplish anything we put our minds to. Hughes began her broadcast career as one of the first female sports reporters in the Southeast and later became a news anchor/reporter in Washington, NC and Richmond, VA. Her career continued to blossom and in 2002 she founded WetBird Productions. Hughes has produced commercials, marketing videos, short films, and many historical documentaries. She has won three Emmy awards for her documentaries Thank You, Eddie Hart and Sing Behind the

Plow. Hughes has produced three World War II documentaries and is currently working on her next documentary.

Hughes gave insight on how to break into the industry and how to keep moving forward in the tough job market. I cannot help but wonder why she was not asked to speak to the Meredith community and tell her amazing story. She has advice to share, encouraging stories to tell, and experience in a difficult industry that many students at Meredith hope to succeed in one day. Hughes was extremely personable and easy to talk with while we learned about her great career. Hughes is a motivating, powerful, and influential woman that would inspire the young women at Meredith to accomplish their goals and succeed in their lives.

As a soon-to-be graduate I think that success stories, like Hughes, would be extremely encouraging and would provide us with the can-do attitude that will be necessary as we enter the next chapter of our lives. My hope is that Meredith will look deeper into the lives of their alums to search for inspiring speakers that will leave a lasting imprint for years to come.

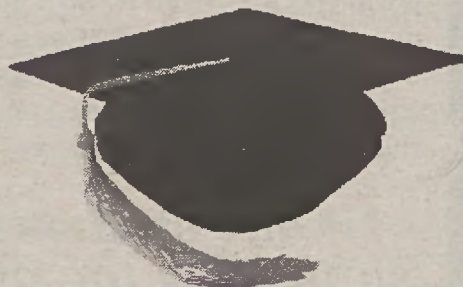


image via faqs.org

## Letters to the Editor

**Letter to the Editor from John Rose, Adjunct Professor:**

Pertaining to Courtney Johnson’s piece “Do We Sound, Like, Dumb When We Talk?” I did not like her opinion. I LOVED IT. I have never read anything in the Herald that I have liked better. Indeed I now feel encouraged to continue the fight, also against increasing numbers of older people. Even faculty are succumbing alas! Lay is very irritating too, and I hope not only to old pedants.

**Letter to the Editor from Dr. Janice C. Swab, Professor of Biology Emerita:**

I am happy to help quell the possible riot that Regan Dalsing mentioned in her piece “Joyner Hall, Where is thy Help?” (The Herald 27.9, p.8) about the state of facilities on Meredith’s campus. She says, “... I feel that the failings of the buildings create a startling contrast to the utter care that’s going into the grounds.” Ms. Dalsing has given the grounds staff a well-deserved compliment with these words. Grounds manager Aaron Schettler and his staff of eight full-time employees (one who spends his full time gathering trash and recycling) perform miracles in every space they tackle as they attend to the grounds. As new buildings and facilities come on-line, thereby demanding much greater grounds maintenance, the number of staff does not increase concomitantly. Only minimal grounds work, such as tree-removal, is contracted out, unlike at many institutions.

Our previous grounds manager often said that the grounds make the first and last impressions on any prospective student during her all-important initial campus visit. How many of you students reading this response remember your first visit and what you thought about the utter beauty of this campus, especially in spring?

If you look behind the scenes, you’ll find that the grounds manager goes far beyond his job description, propagating plants from ones he is able to beg, borrow, or buy to cut costs. He applies for (and receives) grants to supply plant materials. He seeks the generosity of outside donors for beautification projects. He works with the Meredith College fund raisers to develop landscape proposals that will garner the support of the Meredith community. His landscape designs reflect concern for the environment, as he seeks out native species for planting and plans for responsible water usage.

I venture to say that no department of this campus gives us more “bang for our buck” than Grounds! Next time you are enjoying our beautiful plantings and you see Aaron or any one of the groundskeepers, go out of your way to express thanks for all they do. Though challenged by very limited resources, they have managed to steadily improve the Meredith grounds with vision, hard work, and community support.

Finally, rather than perceiving waste in this low-cost bounty for the college, should we not demand an equally-high standard for the condition of our campus buildings?