Pics or It Didn’t Happen

Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, so many places to post. There are a dozen ways to share every waking moment of our lives with all of our closest…followers? The wonderful piece of technology known as a cell phone has gone from a convenient way to call a friend, to an attention consuming device that makes us feel the need to always ‘capture the moment’, rather than just enjoying it.

The biggest source of this problem is Snapchat. The ability to not only send a Snapchat to a friend, but also to simply post it to your ‘MyStory’ for everyone to see makes everyone susceptible to the epidemic. This becomes extremely clear when there’s a concert in town. Essentially, anyone with a Snapchat has a free pass to the show because just about everyone at the concert spends the whole night taking videos. You would think that after spending possibly $100 or more, people would want to put their phones away to actually enjoy the concert. Unfortunately, that is rarely the case. On top of all that, people do not even want to see their friends’ concert stories and often voice their dislike for them on Twitter. I know I always skip through them when they show up on my phone and I am not alone.

I witnessed another example of this at a Seahawk’s game earlier this year. The National Anthem was being sung and I noticed a grown man, probably in his twenties-thirties, taking a video during it. Not only was it disrespectful and immature, but I also could not for the life of me understand why he would possibly want or need a video during that time. Young people are often the culprits, but they’re not the only ones.

Parents are just as much at fault as their kids. Parents absolutely love to post pictures on Facebook (what’s Facebook?) and often time it is pictures of their kids. Vacations are the peak time for the picture posting frenzy. There is an unspoken competition between parents to see who enjoyed the most luxurious or action-packed vacation. The winner gets bragging rights amongst their friends until the next vacation break rolls around.

Do not get me wrong, pictures are a great way to keep memories of various times and events. However, there are plenty of ways to store your photos besides posting them on social media. Simply storing them on your phone will suffice. Or for extra security there are all types of cloud services as well as USB drives, memory cards, etc.

As far as Snapchat stories similar social media platforms go, people you ‘sort of’ know do not need updates on every aspect of your life. Sure, a tweet, post, story, or picture here and there is perfectly fine. In fact it is actually a rather good thing to let people who you do not get to see often know what you have been up to. The reality for teens is that many of our followers or friends are really just people we may know of or talked to once or twice, but not people we regularly interact with. It is just unnecessary to give them so much insight into your life.

My suggestion to everyone guilty of these acts: simply put your phone away and appreciate the moment for what it is, not the picture or video it will be.