

An Understanding of Grief in a Socially Networked World

Grief Expressions Through Blogging and Social Media

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Capstone Project Showcase

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Project Background

▶ Grief Blog

- ▷ Web 1.0
- ▷ Static websites
- ▷ An expression from a personal perspective

▶ Social Media

- ▷ Web 2.0
- ▷ Melding research and experience

Grief

- ▶ Historically studied through gravesites
- ▶ 60% of college students have experienced death in their family (Pennington)



Personal Background



NATION

'Horrorific' limo crash kills 20 in upstate New York

John Bacon, Jorge L. Ortiz and Anthony Borrelli USA TODAY

Published 11:42 a.m. ET Oct. 7, 2018 | Updated 10:15 p.m. ET Oct. 8, 2018

The New York Times

20 Killed in Limo Crash in New York; Deadliest U.S. Accident in 9 Years

Web 1.0 Grief

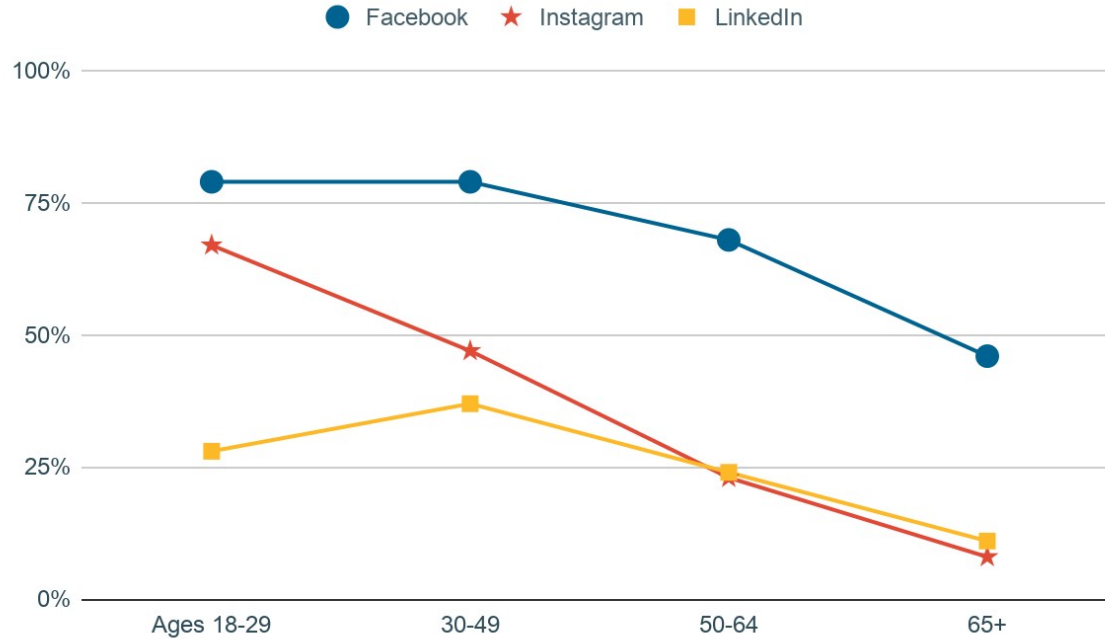
- ▶ Static websites, guestbooks, and memorial pages
- ▶ Why? It is a meaningful activity they can do for the person they lost (Roberts)

Web 2.0 Grief

- ▶ 90% of 18-29 year olds use social media (Pew Research)
- ▶ 60% of college students have experienced death in their family (Pennington)

Where we Grieve 2.0

Social Media Use by Age



Blog



The Socially Grieving Designer

Grief in the age of social media

HOME / ABOUT / CONTACT

🌀 About

This about section is an important opportunity to note that everyone grieves differently. Grieving is a unique process.

🌀 The Signifiers of Grief

Our understanding of words can be limited by our experiences. What is "red" to someone with red-green color blindness? What is "grief" to someone who has not lost. We can use semiotic relationships in order to make sense of things we do not understand.

🌀 Changing Signs

Signs aren't just used to signify emotions, they can also represent the loved one we lost. Prior to the Internet, when a loved one passed, they left behind their physical belongings.

🌀 Not All Social Media are the Same

Social media has expanded well beyond just Facebook, and not all social media is quite the same.

🌀 True Reflections

This does lead us to an open question, is our Facebook profile the most accurate representation of us?

🌀 Grief is Forever

This idea of a permanent grief, one you don't just get over, may sound overwhelming, but it is a reality for many. This reality doesn't need to be depressing, it can be beautiful.

🌀 A Conversation on Grief

I took an opportunity to have a

🌀 Wayfinding

🌀 It's Complicated

Researching a Better Understanding

- ▶ We are still learning how to grieve on social media
- ▶ Both positive and negatives exist

Social Media Positives

- ▶ Strength in numbers

Social Media Negatives

- ▶ Bad apples and negative emotions

Conclusions

- ▶ Facebook Memorial Pages - 2009 - and still learning
- ▶ Transience vs Permanence (physical vs digital)