

CS 121

# Smartphone use

February 19, 2018

# Monday

- Read the three articles online
- Smartphone use: pro/con
- On your blog:
  - Summarize your reaction to the Cons article.
  - How do you see people outside of your age group (sibling, parents, grandparents, etc) using the smart phone differently than you?
  - How concerned are you with your phone usage?
  - Often do you turn off your phone completely?

# In Groups

- The Atlantic:
  - main claim
  - does the data back up the claim
  - does the claim ring true?
  - solutions?
- JStor
  - main claim
  - does the data back up the claim
  - valid criticism of The Atlantic?
- Slate
  - main claim
  - does the data back up the claim
  - valid criticism of The Atlantic?

# The Atlantic (Twenge)

- Smartphones & Social media
  - Claimed Effects
    - physically safer
    - more vulnerable to mental health issues
    - less independent
      - get driver's license later
      - fewer work
    - less inclined to leave the house or physically gather
    - less face to face interaction with friends/family
    - increase in loneliness
      - "upswing in feeling left out"
    - less sleep

# The Atlantic (cont)

- Let's look at the data
  - Does the 2007 iPhone release look like an important marker in each graph?
  - How severe are these trends?
  - Do any of these graphs talk about happiness?

# JSTOR (Samuel)

- But do smartphones really cause these effects?
- Claims:
  - Actually, teens are not that unhappy (chart)
  - The high school seniors who are most likely ... (chart)
    - "biggest risk of unhappiness is among those ... who don't use social media at all"
      - does the chart back this up?
  - Social media takes off ... (chart)
    - where is the biggest effect of the iPhone release?
  - "you know what smartphones and social media are *really* great at? Tuning out your children."
  - "[smartphones] offer respite from our annoying kids, ... they offer respite from our annoying selves."

# Slate (Guernsey)

- Essay about the author's kids and friends
  - Twenge rings true, but ...
  - big risk of overgeneralization
  - Very active on social media
  - Very open about depression/mental illness
  - Frustration by teens about Atlantic article
    - feels like they are doing what the parents want
  - Social Isolation seems real
    - *What is causing that loneliness?*
    - Causation vs Corrolation
      - two data points that occur together