GMDS 140 Final Project Storyboard - Josie Fleischel

Introduction to my project
For my final project, I would like to create a story map on internet culture and how this impacts young people. Specifically, I would like to talk about the negatives (trends of misogyny on Twitter, TikTok influencers constantly pushing anti-gaining regiments, etc.), but mainly highlight how the internet can also be used as an uplifting tool. I will use things like YouTube tutorials, TikTok videos, and Facebook groups as my main media sources of information for this project. While the internet can be an extremely toxic place, there are also many uplifting communities. I will use the story map as a guide to help aid users in removing themselves from harmful aspects of the algorithm, and into a positive part instead. I will be covering on the accessibility and digital divide aspects of what we have learned in this class and apply it to my final project. My end goal is to make this story map a useful resource and guide for people- in and out of this class. My target audience is those who feel lost in the digital world, and it is bringing more negatives than positives.

Title section + beginning prompts.
To begin, the title slide (with the banner image) will be designed to look like a google search, that says either "how to actually enjoy the internet" or something like "why does the internet suck sometimes?". I am aiming for a thought provoking and relatable title. Then, my introduction (which will be accompanied by the image gallery function of story maps that will include tweets, Instagram photos, and TikTok thumbnails that are quite problematic. I know that is it a common experience to stumble upon a post where the opinion shared (that is often viewed by lots and lots of people) is harmful to its viewers.
Examples:
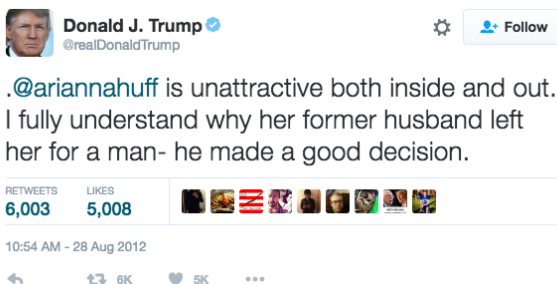
Part 1 (negatives)
Some examples of media I will use for the portions of how social media can be harmful to young populations (especially towards women, any sort of minority, and members of the LGBTQ+ community) will be listed below. I am working towards figuring out how I can input TikTok

videos into story maps where the videos play automatically when you scroll to a certain page (if that even is possible).

-TikTok's constantly pushing anti-aging narratives (there are videos on people's "anti-aging" routines that mainly focus on women, and the people that make the videos are mainly under 30)
-Clips from podcasts that push problematic narratives (Misogyny and racism from people like Andrew Tate and Hannah Pearl Davis) that not only harm many communities, but mobilize an online fanbase that continue to spread these beliefs
-Tweets from regular civilians and those with large followings spewing racist, misogynist, and homophobic tweets that gain lots of media attraction
-TikTok's that push eating disorder habits

With these, I will also touch on how harmful these are specifically for the younger generations, since they have more exposure to the digital world at a much younger age than most.

Part 2 (positives)
For this section, I would like to touch on the positives of social media and the younger generation's accessibility towards it. Some examples of this I would like to include (which I have seen before, but I need to track down these specific sources again) are influencers on TikTok publishing teacher wish lists, twitter enabling activism (specifically amplifying voices that are normally not heard), and platforms linking mental health resources on their platforms. I also would like to use the map feature to highlight global examples of good uses of social media and positive change being pushed by the internet (which I am currently researching)

Part 3 (advice + goals)
Finally, I would like to do an advice column (sort of like what I did in my previous story map with the FAQ section) to help users navigate the digital world, and how to avoid entangling themselves into a toxic relationship with social media where posts are seriously impacting mental wellness. Without media literacy skills (which can occur due to the digital divide in many communities), it is very easy to believe content that is meant to be harmful. Some pieces of advice I plan on giving is:
-Do not be afraid to block things that may trigger you (i.e., certain words/phrases, certain hashtags, different creators, or mutual followers, etc.)
-Try and limit the amount of consecutive time that is spent on social media
- The algorithm is utilizing your data to adjust your feed based on what it thinks you would like. If you are spending hours on end (which is contributing more data) on social media and starting even viewing posts that contain harmful content, your feed will notice this engagement and continue to show you these types of posts.
-Take things you hear from independent sources (like TikTok influencers giving diet advice) with a grain of salt. Make sure the information and advice you are consuming come from factual backgrounds and trustworthy sources.
-Do not only look to the internet for advice
- Yes, the internet provides many great sources, but make sure (again) to double check your sources and use IRL support systems.

-Utilize resources that are advertised online! This not only is a great resource for those who do not have access to many resources, but it helps normalize needing help. Some examples of these resources are GoodRx and Better Help

*Note: I know just having my storyboard in a document can be slightly confusing, but since I do not have all of my sources, yet I found it difficult to create a story map at this point. I also plan on using anecdotal evidence as well.

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