TEXT MESSAGING AND ITS EFFECT ON INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

By

KRISTIN BLAIR

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Introduction

A life without cell phones is hard to imagine due to the rapid advancement in today’s technology. Our smart phones are comparable to computers when it comes to their many functions. We have almost all forms of communication mediums on one device. We can text, we can talk on the phone, we can email, we can chat via our social network sites and on most phones you can video chat. The only medium the smart phone cannot address is face-to-face communication which is closely related to video chatting. People of all ages use cell phones for communication with others. Our most common method, due to its convenience, is text messaging. Texting allows for constant contact with one another and the relay of messages in nearly seconds. Individuals in society have become used to sending messages through wireless communication and have replaced some older forms of communication such as writing letters or calling landlines. Some say with the level of technology we have, our quality of communication has decreased and will continue to decrease as more and more as people become insensitive to the impersonal nature of communication through technology.

Rationale

Communication technology has grown exponentially over the past few years and has had an impact on society and our interpersonal communication. With the development of cell phones came the introduction of text messaging. When text messaging was originally developed it was not very popular (or considered a fad). In the U.S., 2.5 billion text messages are sent per day (“Texting and students’ well-being,” 2009). With that many messages being sent per day it leads to some specific social implications such as altering the communication medium for any
interpersonal communication. Texting has become the preferred mode of communication and has replaced hand written notes and phone calls with friends, family, and even teachers (“Texting and students’ well-being,” 2009). Texting has had a positive and negative impact on education. Texting is negatively viewed when misused during class time (i.e. texting during class) and can be a distraction not only to the individual texting but also to the students in the rest of the class and the teacher. When used in a more respective manner, it has been shown to have positive effects in regards to communication with teachers or professors for educational purposes (Pressner 2006). There have been several studies that show students are more involved when receiving text message updates and/or instructions from a teacher about homework assignments. Teachers’/professors’ text messaging a student allows for the education to continue outside of the classroom which in turn builds a stronger interpersonal relationship with that teacher.

Along with texting affecting one’s education it has also made its way into young adults lives when it comes to developing relations with others. Face-to-face communication is a more rich form of communication, due to the fact you are able to read each other’s emotions and hear the tone in which they are speaking. Strangely enough, face-to-face communication, depending on the context of a conversation, is not a preferred means of communication. Young adults would much rather communicate via text message. Conversations we would normally have face-to-face, such as asking one out on a date, ending a relationship, breaking bad news etc., is now being done through texting (Pressner 2006). As time goes on and technology develops our ways of social interaction and communication change.
Literature Review

Our cell phones have become more than just a tool, they have become a cool accessory, a companion, an extension of self that is seen to express what the owner is like. In countries outside of the U.S., mobile phones are being advertised as an extension of oneself and advertisements are giving the users the idea that they should be ashamed of their “old-fashioned” cell phones. Your phone is a “fun companion that needs to be up-to-date if the user is to enjoy the relationship to the full and have a good time” (Faulkner, 2004).

A study by Tamyra Pierce, *Social anxiety and technology: Face-to-face communication versus technological communication among teens*, investigated 280 high school students and their texting use. This study revealed that through the use of texting and social networking sites, young adults have shown to have an increase in anxiety. During face-to-face conversations, females had more anxiety than males. Technology like texting allows for a shy person, or a person that has social anxiety, the ability to avoid any unpleasant situations. Talking to someone face-to-face can be nerve racking to some individuals. For teens with social anxiety or teens that are shy, this technology allows them to stay withdrawn and continue an insular lifestyle. It encourages them to continue to avoid social interactions that may involve any face-to-face communication (Peirce 2008).

Another study done by Namho Chung (2010), similar to the study above, revealed that adolescent girls are addicted to texting because it helps them maintain interpersonal solidarity. Interpersonal solidarity includes sentiments and intimacy issues. This is more common with females because studies have shown females use their phones more than males, although there is
not a significant difference (Chung 2010). Females tend to use their phones for different reasons than males. Men use it more for maintaining relationships and to avoid more meaningful calls over the telephone. Females use texting to foster emotional interaction and also to keep in contact with friends, family and their significant others. Intimate conversations over text messages are not as meaningful. Saying things to someone’s face takes more courage and allows for sincerity to be recognized. Expressing ones feelings over text message has become common, being told “I love you” for the first time from a significant other over a text message is very impersonal but yet happens more often than it ever has before (Pressner 2006). More and more people are sharing their intimate thoughts for one another over wireless communication, which takes the meaning out of it. Technology is taking words that used to be so powerful (i.e. i love you) and making them less meaningful.

In other studies, females reported that they have had entire relationships start, flourish and end over text messaging. Texting allows for people to break “the rules” that have been taught as proper etiquette for keeping a partner interested. Now all that has to be done is a quick text checking-in and most [partners] seem content with that (Pressner 2006).

A participant in a study done by Amanda Pressner in 2006 said, “a text gets the point across without a lengthy and uncomfortable explanation." Texting is a way to avoid an uncomfortable situation or Kristin Harmel, author of the forthcoming novel How to Sleep with a Movie Star says, "If you don't know someone that well -- or if you don't want to make a move in a big way -- a text message is a much easier and more innocent way to be flirtatious than a phone call." The same study explains that males, who have been accused of not communicating enough, have developed the deepest respect for texting. They now have the ability to gauge someone’s
interest before taking the step of asking them out on a date. This is done in order to decrease the chances of rejection and avoid any direct rejection that could happen when asking someone out in a face-to-face situation. Also, if there is a need for a change in plans or a cancellation, texting allows for a delay in providing an explanation. A major problem with texting that is presented in this article is the high chances of miscommunication among the recipients. Sarcasm and emotions are not always interpreted correctly which in turn can cause problems or fights among friends and family. Before this technology was developed, this was not an issue (Pressner 2006).

Texting allows for minimal effort in relationships and seems to be one of the biggest factors mentioned thus far. Our relationships are changing because our communication is becoming less meaningful, it requires less effort, and is becoming more frequent. With texting, you have the capabilities of keeping tabs on your significant other at all times (assuming they have a cell phone with texting capabilities). Of course with that you can run into problems with the other person not answering immediately or in some cases not at all. All this ties in with the changing of technology and communication mediums. Before cell phones, the only way to get in contact with one another was by calling a landline or talking in person (Leslie, 2010).

Not only has texting brought about changes in the conversations we have face-to-face, it has changed our written language. While texting, abbreviations like ‘BRB’ for be right back, ‘TTYL’ for talk to you later, ‘BC’ for because, ‘ILU’ for I love you etc, are often used instead of typing out full words. This has created a language barrier between the varying generations and has also started showing up in formal written assignments (Drouin 2010).

Texting has not only made it’s way into formal papers it has also made its way into interpersonal communication methods among teachers and students. In 2008, a principle of a
large urban comprehensive high school was looking for a way to connect with all 2,000 students in the school (Kessler 2009). As a parent, she experienced her son going to college and often tried to get in contact with him via email or telephone but neither was very successful so she began texting him. When she texted her son she would get an immediate response. With that in mind she decided that texting would be a way to foster a relationship with the students in her high school. She gave everyone her personal cell phone number and immediately began receiving texts of all sorts. Some regarding policies and such and others that presented much more serious issues warning her of fights that could happen and helping students with family issues. Just a few years ago, a principal handing out their personal cell phone number to students would have been unheard of but now it has proved to be beneficial in creating an interpersonal relationship between teacher and student due to increased interpersonal communication (Kessler 2009). Although text messaging has many negative implications in society in how it has affected our communication there are some instances, like the one just mentioned, that showed to be effective in the proper environment.

**Personality types**

There are a variety of different people in this world with an array of different personalities. Our personality defines who we are and shows through in our social interactions and the way we do things. People’s personalities are often measured according to where they fall on a scale of introversion and extroversion. An introvert is an individual that enjoys their alone time and is energized by things going on inside them. They need their alone time and often find it tiring to be around others and to get to know people. This doesn’t mean they don’t have the ability to interact with others, it just means they require time to themselves. Also, being an
introvert is often confused with being shy. Being shy is different from being an introvert. When someone is shy they want to interact with others but just have some trouble doing so. An introvert has the confidence and conversational skills but prefers to be alone. Being an extrovert is the exact opposite. Many people that are introverts have the ability to act like they’re an extrovert but while socializing will be anxious inside. Going to a social gathering with a lot of people is not a preference, they think of a party as them and a few others talking in-depth about a common interest. This type of scenario is ideal for an introvert. An introvert also prefers to have one or two very deep and meaningful relationships compared to many. They prefer the quality of a relationship over the quantity. Also, introverts will often not speak up in group discussions because they thoroughly think about what it is they want to say. Generally, before speaking or having a conversation, introverts put a good amount of time into completing their thoughts and organizing them in a logical manner (Mudore 2002).

An extrovert is a very outgoing person and also takes up around 75% of the population. These people are often portrayed as being talkative and high energy, which isn’t always true. Unlike introverts, extroverts get energized by being around people and really enjoy being engaged in social situations. Extroverts like to express their likes and dislikes and often don’t understand introverts (Mudore 2002). Because personality types define who we are and how we interact with others, the technology of texting has the potential to affect introverts and extroverts differently.

Theories

There are two communication theories that attempt to explain our media choices. Media richness theory and the uses and gratification theory both help explain the determination in
media choice for young adults ranging between 18 and 35 years of age. The media richness theory explains the media choice of the individual and is based on the medium’s capacity and the specific nature of the task. This model suggests our media choices are based on several different things including ease of use, cost, proximity and enjoyment. Text messaging is very easy to use, can be used while performing other tasks (convenience), delivers the message fairly quickly, gives us the ability to shorten messages and allows us to reach one another at all times (assuming they have their phone on them). Laura Jollay in An In-depth Look at How the social Context of Relationships Influence Communication Media Choice for Young Adults, explains that the medium in which people use could be dependent upon the relationship with the individual they are communicating with. For example, the article discusses a study that shows how communicating via text messaging or IM is usually done with people you have a more personal relationship with, are in the same social group with and have the ability to make clear points through texting. Email was found to be used more among people that are not familiar with one another on a personal level. This study also explains that if a particular medium is popular and widely adopted through a person’s social network, it will be perceived as the medium with the best capability for handling the majority of communication. This explains why texting is widely used among young adults, everyone within the 18-35 age range has adopted this technology which then leads to believe that texting is the proper medium to use when communicating with peers, regardless of the context of the conversation.

The uses and gratifications theory suggests people choose their communication mediums based on their interpersonal needs, traditional needs and new media needs. Interpersonal needs include inclusion, affection, relaxation and control. Traditional needs include social interaction,
passing time, information, habit and entertainment. New media needs include time shifting and meeting other individuals. According to Jollay, the most sought out needs to be gratified are the interpersonal needs. Communicating with others is the main way to help gratify these needs and the medium in which they communicate is dictated by the relationship between the sender and the receiver. Face-to-face communication is the most rich form of communication because of the existence of emotional cues that are not present when using any form of wireless communication. Researchers have found that people adapt to the lack of emotional cues to make the channel effective for building and maintaining relationships. They also suggest that wireless communication offers its convenience and less emotional vulnerability. Face-to-face communication is now most popular among spouses and their children (Jollay 2011).

With the development of technology has come the change in the quality of interpersonal communication among young adults. Old communication techniques, phone calls, letters etc., have been replaced by texting and other technological means of communication. Studies have shown an increase in anxiety among adolescent girls, with higher uses of texting, during social situations that require face-to-face communication. Young adults are more comfortable communicating through wireless technologies such as text messaging and social networking sites because it allows them to avoid any unpleasant situations, allows them to “make a move” without the move being too significant, avoids any direct rejections, avoids emotional vulnerabilities and requires less effort when communicating. More and more intimate relationships are forming and being maintained through the use of wireless technology along with the increase in intimate conversations being had over this medium. The amount of communication being done over wireless communication has lead to the adoption of the lack of
emotional cues present in a conversation. These emotional cues are only present when speaking with someone face-to-face but with young adults today, these cues are rarely missed. These cues are important though, especially in maintaining a strong interpersonal relationship with someone. Wireless communication can lead to a misinterpretation of the context of a message which then can lead to a fight with whomever communication is being had. There has been a significant decrease in face-to-face communication among peers. The most common use of face-to-face communication now-a-days happens among spouses and their children. The lack of face-to-face communication has a direct correlation with the development of technology.

Research Questions

In this study I examine the effects texting has on our interpersonal communication and relationships. As mentioned before, technology plays a major role in the life of individuals in society. It is how we communicate with one another. In order to address the gap in the literature concerning communication comfort levels and its connection to cell phone use, I ask:

1. Is there an increase in discomfort among heavy cell phone users when it comes to having conversations in a face-to-face setting?

Since there are many factors that could play a role in an individuals texting patterns, I thought it would be important and relevant to my study to include the variable concerning personality types, introvert and extrovert. To address this issue, I ask:

2. Do the personality types introvert vs. extrovert have an effect on interpersonal communication?

Methods
This study aims to find ways in which our interpersonal communication has been affected by the technology of text messaging. In order to test and measure the severity of the affects texting has had on our interpersonal communication I made a survey with a variety of questions pertaining to comfort level while texting versus in a face-to-face setting. A variable that I included was the personality types introvert and extrovert and how or if that played a role on the number of texts sent per day or the comfort level while in a face-to-face setting. I handed this survey out to 78 RIT students that have a variety of different majors and are of all different ages. The average age of my study was 22 years old. After handing out my surveys I ran the data through SPSS and ran a variety of different tests that would help me answer my two research questions.

Data Analysis

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paired Samples Correlations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pair 1 Texts Per Day &amp; Personalities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A paired-samples t-test was calculated to compare the average number of text messages sent per day versus a personality type based off of a introversion and extroversion scale. This is based off of a sample size of 78 (N=78). Since the significance level was greater than .05 (0.896>.05) there is no significant differences between the number of texts per day and an individuals personality type. Therefore a persons personality type does not play a role in the average number of text messages sent per day.

Table 2
A paired-samples t-test was calculated to compare the average number of text messages sent per day versus the increase in level of comfort an individual has while texting compared to the comfort level in a face-to-face setting. Since the significance level was less than 0.05 (0.001<0.05) there is significance between the average number of texts per day and the level of comfort individuals have while texting versus in a face-to-face setting.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pair 1</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texts Per Day &amp; comfortlevel</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>.354</td>
<td>.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A paired-samples t-test was calculated to compare the individuals personality type (extrovert) and the level of comfort they have while texting compared to a face-to-face interaction. Since the significance level was less than 0.05 (0.000<0.05) there is significance between an individuals personality type and the increased level of comfort while texting versus a face-to-face setting.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pair 1</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personalities &amp; comfortlevel</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>-.421</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table above represents the correlations between three different variables. This table shows that there is a moderate correlation (.354) between the average number of texts per day and the increased level of comfort while texting compared to the comfort level in face-to-face interactions. This also shows a significance of 0.001 (0.001<0.05). Because the significance is less than 0.05 there is significance between the two variables.

There is a negative correlation (-.421) between the level of comfort while text messaging compared to face-to-face interactions and the personality type of being an extrovert. The more extrovert personality traits an individual encompasses the more comfortable the person is in a face-to-face setting. This also shows a significance of 0.000 (0.000<0.05). Because the significance is less than 0.05 there is significance between the two variables.

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>comfortlevel</th>
<th>Texts Per Day</th>
<th>Personalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>comfortlevel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.354**</td>
<td>-.421**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texts Per Day</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>.896</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personalities</td>
<td>Pearson Correlation</td>
<td>-.421**</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>.896</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
This table also shows that there is not a correlation (-0.015) between being an extrovert and the average number of texts sent per day. There is also no significant between these two variable as the significance is greater than 0.05 (0.896>0.05).

**Table 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reliability Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cronbach's Alpha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Comfort level and texts per day)*

The table above represents a test of reliability between two of the variables, level of comfort and the number of texts per day. The Cronbach’s Alpha score of 0.886 (0.886>0.70) provides evidence that the two variables mentioned provide consistency. This means that between these two variables there is a significant enough of a correlation for the data in this study to be reliable.

**Table 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reliability Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cronbach's Alpha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Personality type extrovert and texts per day)*

In the above table (table 6) I ran a reliability test containing the two variables personality type and the number of texts per day. Since the Cronbach’s Alpha is 0.872 and greater than 0.70 (0.872>0.70) it shows these two variables are reliable and contain a significant correlation.
Discussion

Through this study I aimed to show how the technology of text messaging has had an effect on our interpersonal communication. I felt that since texting has become such a prominent part of young adults lives it had to have some sort of effect on how we interact with others.

Which brings me back to my two research questions:

1. *Is there an increase in discomfort among heavy cell phone users when it comes to having conversations in a face-to-face setting?* 2. *Do the personality types introvert vs. extrovert have an effect on interpersonal communication?*

The first question was the main focus of my study and if you refer back to Table 2 and Table 4 they provide data that helps answer this question. After analyzing the data, it showed that there is a relationship between the number of text messages sent per day and the decrease level of comfort in a face-to-face setting, as I predicted. The test also shows that there is a strong correlation between the two variables. According to my study, technology has had an effect on our interpersonal communication and comfort level in various situations. This study has also shown that there is a preference in communication via text message due to the increased level of comfort.

What I found interesting while analyzing my data is that personality type extrovert did not play a significant role in the number of texts messages per day but did show to have a positive correlation with the level of comfort in a face-to-face setting. The more extrovert qualities a person possessed the more comfortable they seemed to be in face-to-face settings. I expected personality type to play more of a role in the number of texts per day but if you refer
back to Table 1 and Table 4, you will see that there is actually little to no relationship between the two variables. This data answered my second research question.

I was also surprised to find that the average number of texts sent per day was 50-100. Previous research had shown otherwise, but my sample size was small and was limited to the RIT population. Also, gender difference were minimal. Females tended to text more than males, but there were no significant differences in the numbers. There was also not a huge gender difference in the number of extroverts among the two sexes.

**Conclusion**

What people can take away from this study is that technology is a determining factor in society and can affect the way we interact with one another. While I thought personality type would also play a role, in the data I gathered it is not a determining factor in how people communicate, although it does contribute the differing levels of comfort in certain situations. There are some limitations that existed within my study. I had limited access to individuals outside of the RIT community, so my sample is strictly RIT students and that could possibly make a difference in the outcome of the study. My sample was 60.3% males, 39.7% females and had an average age of 22. Also, I had a sample size of 78, which could have been larger. A larger sample size has the potential to generate different outcomes as well. Also, I only tested the correlation of two variables when there are many different reasons people use text messaging and variety of other reasons they may be uncomfortable in a face-to-face setting. If in the future I was to do more research on this topic I would include different variables that I think could also potentially effect our interpersonal communication and comfort level. Due to the correlational nature of my study future research on this topic may want to include an experiment of some sort.
Part One:

1. **On average how many texts do you think you send per day?** (Circle one)
   - 0-50
   - 50-100
   - 100-150
   - 150-200

2. **Do you have unlimited texting as part of your cell phone plan?** Yes/No

3. **Do you currently own a smartphone:** Yes/No

Part Two:

1. I am calm and relaxed while participating in group discussions.
2. I like to get involved in group discussions.
3. I have no fear of speaking up in conversation.
4. Usually, I am comfortable when I have to participate in a meeting.
5. While conversing with an acquaintance, I am very relaxed.
6. Engaging in a group discussion with new people makes me tense and nervous.
7. Generally, I am nervous when I have to participate in a meeting.
8. I am afraid to express myself at meetings.
9. Ordinarily I am tense and nervous in conversations.
10. I do not like to mix socially with people.
11. I do not like to have many social engagements.
12. I wouldn’t rate myself as a happy-go-lucky person.
13. I am inclined to be moody.
14. I do not usually take the initiative in making new friends.
15. My mind often wanders while trying to concentrate.
Part Three:

1. I feel more comfortable texting someone versus talking to them face-to-face.

   1  2  3  4  5

2. I prefer to text my friends and family rather than talk to them face-to-face.

   1  2  3  4  5

3. I feel texting is the most efficient and effective form of communication.

   1  2  3  4  5

4. I will often text someone rather than call them.

   1  2  3  4  5

5. I will often ignore a phone call and respond back with a text message.

   1  2  3  4  5

6. I do not enjoy face-to-face communication.

   1  2  3  4  5

7. I do not like to talk on the phone.

   1  2  3  4  5

8. I am comfortable with talking to someone in a face-to-face setting.

   1  2  3  4  5

9. I feel that texting is impersonal.

   1  2  3  4  5

10. I find myself always wanting to text.

    1  2  3  4  5

11. I will often text while in class.

    1  2  3  4  5

12. I will often avoid any face-to-face conversations.

    1  2  3  4  5

13. I have had a personal/important conversation via text messaging.

    1  2  3  4  5

14. I am more comfortable expressing my feelings to someone, whether the feelings are positive or negative, over text messaging compared to a face-to-face conversation.

    1  2  3  4  5

15. I will often say certain things over text messages that I wouldn’t say to someones face.

    1  2  3  4  5

16. I have arguments with individuals over text messaging.

    1  2  3  4  5
17. I have misinterpreted the meaning of someone's text message, due to lack of verbal and non-verbal cues.  

18. I prefer to text my significant other rather than call him/her.  

19. I prefer to text my significant other rather than talk to him/her face-to-face.  

20. I prefer to text a family member rather than call them.  

21. I prefer to text a family member rather than talk to them face-to-face.  

22. I am more comfortable texting my significant other while having a serious conversation versus talking to them face-to-face.  

23. I am more comfortable texting a family member while having a serious conversation versus talking to them face-to-face.  

Part Four  

1. Age: ______  

2. Gender: Male/Female  

3. Major:_____________________

4. Race (optional)  

  o American Indian or Alaska Native  
  o Asian  
  o Black or African American  
  o Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
  o White (Caucasian)
You are invited to take part in a research study regarding social factors associated with text messaging and its effects on interpersonal communication.

**What the study is about:** This study is designed to gain a better understanding of the impact text messaging has on society and our interpersonal communication, specifically among college aged individuals.

**What you will be asked to do:** As a participant, you will be asked to participate in a short surveying that will take between 15-20 minutes. These questions are to gauge how important text messaging is in your life and how it may have influenced your comfort level while in a face-to-face setting.

**Risks and Benefits:** This survey doesn’t contain any risks.

**Taking part is voluntary:** Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. If you choose to be in the study you can withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. Participating in this study does not mean that you are giving up any of your privacy rights.

**Your answers will be confidential:** The records of this study will be kept private. Data will be kept on a personal computer that is only accessible to the researcher. Any report of this research that is made available to the public will not include your name or any other individual information by which you could be identified.

**If you have questions or want a copy or summary of the study results:** Contact the researcher at the email address or phone number above. You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records. If you have any questions about whether you have been treated in an illegal or unethical way, contact the Rochester Institute of Technology Institutional Review Board chair Sara Renna by phone (585-475-5429) or email sjrtlo@rit.edu.

**Statement of Consent:** I have read the above information and have received answers to any questions. I consent to take part in the research study of social factors associated with text messaging.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Statistics</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More comfortable texting vs. face-to-face</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>1.031</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer to text friends/family vs. face-to-face</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>1.002</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texting is most efficient form of communication</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>1.142</td>
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<tr>
<td>I will text rather than call</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>.986</td>
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<tr>
<td>I will ignore a call and respond with text</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>1.077</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t enjoy face-to-face communication</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>.973</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t like talking on the phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comfortable in face-to-face setting</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>.567</td>
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<td>I feel texting is impersonor</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>.896</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Always want to text</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>1.089</td>
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<tr>
<td>I often text in class</td>
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<td>1.237</td>
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<tr>
<td>I often avoid face-to-face conversations</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>.648</td>
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<tr>
<td>I have important/personal conversations via texting</td>
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<td>1.002</td>
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<tr>
<td>More comfortable texting feelings via texting vs. face-to-face</td>
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<td>Will say different things texting vs. face-to-face</td>
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<td>Have arguments via texting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have misinterpreted meaning of text message</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer text vs. calling significant other</td>
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<td>More comfortable texting a sig. other for serious convo. vs. face-to-face</td>
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### Group Statistics

<table>
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<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Std. Error Mean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### One-Sample Test

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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
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<td>Age</td>
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### Texts Per Day * More comfortable texting vs. face-to-face Crosstabulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>28</td>
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### Texts Per Day * Prefer to text friends/family vs. face-to-face Crosstabulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>37</td>
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References


