**Do You Worry Colleges or Employers Might Read Your Social Media Posts Someday?**

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*Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites have become an integral part of teenage culture. Yet the snarky comment or inappropriate picture we share with our friends just might not project the image we want the rest of the world to see, especially as we get older. How careful are you online?*

*Do you worry colleges or employers might read your social media posts someday?*

In [“They Loved Your G.P.A. Then They Saw Your Tweets,”](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/business/they-loved-your-gpa-then-they-saw-your-tweets.html) Natasha Singer reports on the role that Internet-checking plays in college admissions.

At Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Me., admissions officers are still talking about the high school senior who attended a campus information session last year for prospective students. Throughout the presentation, she apparently posted disparaging comments on Twitter about her fellow attendees, repeatedly using a common expletive.

Perhaps she hadn’t realized that colleges keep track of their social media mentions.

“It was incredibly unusual and foolish of her to do that,” Scott A. Meiklejohn, Bowdoin’s dean of admissions and financial aid, told me last week. The college ultimately denied the student admission, he said, because her academic record wasn’t competitive. But had her credentials been better, those indiscreet posts could have scuttled her chances.

“We would have wondered about the judgment of someone who spends their time on their mobile phone and makes such awful remarks,” Mr. Meiklejohn said.

As certain high school seniors work meticulously this month to finish their early applications to colleges, some may not realize that comments they casually make online could negatively affect their prospects. In fact, new research from Kaplan Test Prep, the service owned by the Washington Post Company, suggests that online scrutiny of college hopefuls is growing.

**Students:** Read the entire article, then tell us …

* Do you worry colleges or employers might see your social media posts someday? How careful are you online?
* Have you ever sanitized your social media accounts — deleted photos and comments — because you were afraid they might come back to haunt you?
* Do you think it’s fair for employers or colleges to check out candidates through, say, Google?