True Connections: Writing Prompts

Name: _____

Date: _____

Social Media
- How is your "real life" personality similar and different from your online personality?
- Tell us about a time when you felt you were really different online than the "real" you.
- What kinds of stories do you like to share with your friends online? How do you decide what you want to post?
- Tell us about a time you posted something that you later wished you hadn't.
- Write about a time you saw someone post something about you online that wasn't true – and what you did (or didn't do) about it.
- Tell the story behind the most popular photo you've ever posted.
- Have you ever met a good friend online? Tell the story of how you met.

Videos and Online Gaming
- Tell us about a video game that's changed your life.
- If you're a gamer, what's the best part about being a gamer? What's the worst part?
- Has there ever been a time that you didn't feel like you belonged in a gaming situation (because of your gender, age, etc.)? If so, tell us about that.
- Who are your favorite YouTubers? What do you like about them and why?
- Do you know anyone who has become YouTube famous?
- Would you want to be YouTube famous? If you were, what do you think you'd be YouTube famous for? Why?

Friendship in the Internet Age
- Imagine all social media went away. Would your friendships remain the same? Would they be with the same people? How would they be different?
- What's the text you most wish you hadn't written?
- What's the text you most wish you HAD written?
- What's the worst/funniest misunderstanding you've had because of texting or social media?

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Friendship in the Internet Age, Continued...
- If you could prevent one of your friends from ever texting again, who would it be and why?
- Has social media created jealousy and divisions among your friends? If so, tell us one story of how it has.
- What place online do you feel most at home?

Life Online
- How do your parents feel about your tech use?
- Do your parents or family use technology the same way you do, or differently? How so?
- Do you ever take intentional breaks from technology or social media? Why or why not? What do you do with your time away from tech/social media?
- Do you ever wish you could detach? Or do you wish you could stay immersed? Please explain.
- Have you ever been a victim of cyberbullying? If so, what was it like and how did it make you feel?
- Have you been a cyberbully yourself, and if so, why did you do it?
- What's it like to navigate the online world if you're a teen for whom English is a second language? For immigrants or first-generation Americans, has it changed how you learn the language or made learning English easier or harder?

News Sources
- Do you feel like you can trust the news and other things you read online? Why or why not?
- What is the most reliable news source, in your opinion? Why?
- What is the most reliable place to find information for school work or your own writing, in your opinion? Why?
- Where do you learn most about the world, your community, and current events?
- How do you determine if a story is real? How do you determine if it's worth sharing?
- Have you ever shared a story from a news source or included something in a paper that you thought was true but later realized was not? How did that make you feel? Can you describe the experience?