

Sofia Barrows

Should Teenageers Play Pokémon Go?

The new hit mobile app game, Pokémon Go, is the most downloaded app of Summer 2016. The game is based off the popular card game, Pokémon, and is known widely for its unique characters. “Pokémon Go Craze Raises Safety Issues”, an article by Sarah E. Needleman, “Pokémon Go: The One Serious Problem Everyone Should Worry About”, an article by Bernard Marr, “Is Pokémon Go Good for Our Society?” an article by ProCon.org, and “The Psychological Pros and Cons of Pokémon Go”, an article by Psychology Today, are all sources used. Pokémon Go should not be played by teenagers because it can cause people to go to dangerous locations, it makes people distracted, and it uses personal information.

First, Pokémon Go should not be played by teenagers because it can cause them to travel to dangerous locations. The game itself plants Pokémon at random locations for people to travel to and collect, but what if these are remote and hazardous places? Sarah Needleman states in her article, “Players could get hurt searching unsafe areas—a dark alley or along a river...” This quote shows that because of the game's' randomly generated locations, teens might not know exactly where they are going and if it is safe or not. If they did go to a dark alley for example, the teen could be abducted or kidnapped, showing that Pokémon Go and its locations might eventually bring up crime rates. Criminals can easily target Pokémon Go players with them being distracted by their phone in these locations. ProCon.org mentions in their article that, “A police department in Philadelphia warned on Twitter, “Be mindful of what you play online, a string of armed robberies perpetrated by suspects who targeted their victims

using Pokémon Go.” This excerpt explains how robberies are becoming easier to perform thanks to the app's unsafe locations. Teens become oblivious the moment they run the app and risk becoming a victim of some sort. Safety-wise, this explains why teens should not play Pokémon Go.

Next, teens should not play Pokémon Go because it makes them easily distracted and oblivious to their surroundings. Usually when people are on their phones, they don't pay attention to what's happening around them, the same applies to the app Pokémon Go.

ProCon.org notes in their article that, “News reports say that users have tripped, fallen into a lake, crashed a car, and sustained other injuries while playing.” The app causes people to walk around while still staring at their phone screen, which is very hazardous to your health. Teens should not be prone to these injuries, especially with today's technology. Everyone is constantly involved in accidents because they are staring at a screen, and Pokémon Go only makes them more vulnerable. The quote mentions “car crashes,” which is a huge issue today since people are always texting and driving, causing accidents that can be very severe. With users playing Pokémon Go while driving, it is the same issue and makes these types of accidents an even bigger problem today. This explains why teens should not play Pokémon Go.

Lastly, teens should not play Pokémon Go because it uses a lot of personal information. Pokémon Go uses a lot of data that people don't know about, due to them being oblivious again and not actually thinking about why they need our location and other data. Marr exclaims in his article that, “Pokémon Go uses your phone's location, your IP address, and the webpage you most recently visited before playing, all connected with your real name and account information, according to the game's privacy policy.” This quote can show us that a lot of

information about you is all saved once you run the app, and this can make a majority of people feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Most people, when asked to agree to terms and conditions or a privacy policy click accept unknowingly, risking all kinds of personal data, leaving them vulnerable. Additionally, Marr continues, "It uses a Google Map and your real-world GPS location to direct you to Pokémon to catch, and that information can be misused." Most of us probably know that the app uses our location, me being a user myself, but I never really thought about how that information could be handled in the wrong way. Misuse of all this information can lead to serious problems that people don't want to risk. With users unknowingly giving all this information, it just opens a door for others to mishandle it. Even though Pokémon Go may help people get a good amount of exercise, it is still not worth the risk, which is why teens should not play Pokémon Go.

Concludingly, Pokémon Go has many risks involved in it and is a danger for our society. The app makes crime and injury rates climb quickly. Globally, this is a perfect example of how technology can threaten our safety and protection of information. Teens should not play Pokémon Go because it can cause them to travel to dangerous locations, it makes people distracted, and it uses personal information.