

Selfie Essay

“But first let me take a selfie”

I look my self in the in mirror, I like what I see, I grab my phone and snap a few pictures, I find one that I like and “click” it’s out on the internet.

Robert Cornelius an amateur chemist and photography enthusiast took what is thought to be the first selfie ever. Cornelius had set his camera up at the back of the family store. He took the image by removing the lens cap and then running into frame where he sat for a minute before covering up the lens again. On the back he wrote “The first light Picture ever taken. 1839.”

Who takes selfies?

The other weekend when I was home my mom came to me and said, look I took my first selfie.

I actually think the selfie trend is most commonly used by my own generation.

Young people tend to want attention in the real world and on the internet. By posting pictures they get attention, with the attention they want acceptance and with that they want to feel good about themselves.

Why do people have the need to post selfies?

I have had a selfie as my profile picture on Facebook once, but never have I just posted a selfie. I see a lot of people do it - famous people, my friends, even sometimes my family. But why?

Maybe its just about attention and acceptance, maybe people get addicted to it. If someone post a selfie and people comment “wow you are so beautiful” they may feel like posting more pictures.

In 2013 the word “selfie” was added to the Oxford dictionary, and named word of the year.

Selfie - "A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website."

How does the internet see you?

People on social media sees you exactly the way you want them to see you. Thats the point about using them, you get the chance to put in your life on a profile just the you want, and live behind an online mask.

Selfie as a self-portrait

Back in time artists would often paint portraits or self-portraits.

I think the selfie is the new self-portrait. You get to create a image of yourself that have the expression you want. You get to choose how people sees you.

I see the problem with this online behavior, but it doesn't really touches me. I don't use social media that much, I don't see why it is necessary and i don't want to waste my time on it. So I am having a hard time understanding why people need to do this, post pictures, post videos and selfies.

By using the front camera on your phone its easy to take a selfie, but what is the difference between that and have someone else taking a picture of you? Do you feel different about the two things? Do other people care?

Back when there was no phones or anything some people would set a mark on a map all the places that they have been. Now you can take a picture of yourself next to the Eiffel tower and everyone will know if post it online.