**WV- 2013, English 180, Second Place, (Professor, Dr. Timothy Helwig)**

*"I H8 U": The Cyberbullying Debate*

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On October 10, 2012, a teenager's tragedy struck the worldwide news. Fifteen year old Amanda Todd committed suicide after suffering from about a year's worth of Cyberbullying. After seeking help and remaining unheard, she moved from town to town in Canada in an attempt to escape her conflict. Never being able to evade the bullying, she decided to end her life. This is only one of the many cases of Cyberbullying that the 21$^{st}$ century has experienced. In Nandoli Von Marees' article, "Cyberbullying: An Increasing Challenge for Schools," Cyberbullying can be defined as "an intentional, repeated, and aggressive act or behavior carried out by a group or individual employing information and communication technology (ICT) as an instrument" (Marees 468). Thus, different forms of Cyberbullying can be implemented via the internet, e-mail, texting, and phone calls. According to Pew Internet and American Life Project Researchers, 80% of teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 use a social networking website and approximately one third of these teens claimed that they had been perpetrators or victims of Cyberbullying (Nitzburg 1225). Therefore, with the advancements in technology and the increasing use of it by teenagers, it is clear that Cyberbullying is now a risk that comes hand in hand with technology. Parents, teachers, and school administrators should take into consideration that technology and the dangers that accompany it are not going away. They should realize that there are various causes for a teenager to be a bully or be bullied, and that solutions to reduce the number of cases of Cyberbullying should be provided to lessen the incidents. Due to the fact that all teenagers experience different life stressing situations and many are uninformed about online dangers, parents, teachers, and school administrators should unite and reach out to individual, conflicted teenagers, as well as incorporate workshops about Cyberbullying into their school curriculum to prevent future hazard.

A cause for Cyberbullying could be that teenagers face stresses in their lives. There are various stressors among a teenager's life such as what is occurring at home, how they are doing at school, and the relationships that they have with their peers. According to Nandoli von

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