

# RANIA MANKARIOUS

CEO, Crime Stoppers of Houston

Author: The Online World, What You Think You Know and What You Don't



[facebook.com/theraniareport](https://facebook.com/theraniareport)



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# HEADQUARTERS – THE DAVE WARD BUILDING



# MISSIONS IN PROGRAMS



# TIP LINE PROGRAM

OPERATES THE FAMED TIPLINE  
713-222-TIPS (8477)

- | Open 24/7
- | 2,500 Calls Per Month
- | Community & Campus Based Tips
- | Staffed by Law Enforcement —> Houston Police Department has been our host agency since our inception



# TIP LINE SUCCESSES

37,000+

CASES

SOLVED



\$12+M

IN CASH REWARDS

PAID



# TIP LINE SUCCESSES



**Ava Castillo**

2016

3 arrested

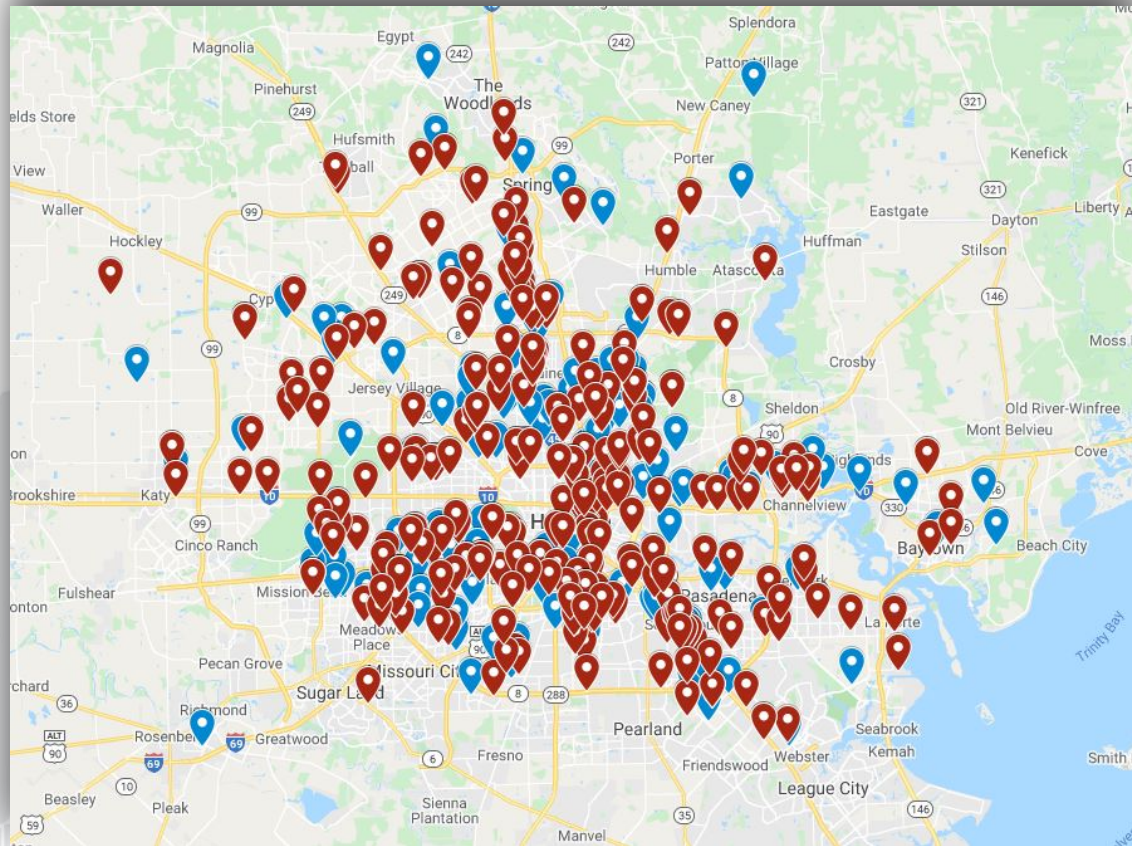
10 other cases cleared

62 year old

*gunned down*



# TIP LINE REACH



# SAFE SCHOOL INSTITUTE (SSI)



Established 1997 | Expanded in 2018  
**Hub for all things school safety related**

## Student Presentations

Active Shooter in partnership with JetBlue  
Animal Safety  
Bullying Prevention in partnership with David's Legacy Foundation  
be nice.® (Mental Health)  
Cyber Safety  
Human Trafficking  
Juvenile Laws  
Prom Safety  
Situational Awareness  
Substance Abuse Prevention  
Teen Dating & Sexual Misconduct  
The Nexus between Social Media and Mental Health  
Tip Line

## School Staff Presentations

Active Shooter in partnership with JetBlue  
Bullying Prevention  
be nice.® (Mental Health)  
Cyber Safety Awareness  
Cyber Safety & Human Trafficking Awareness  
Gaming Safety  
Human Trafficking  
Reporting Disclosed and Suspected Abuse Neglect and Trafficking  
Social Media Safety  
Teen Dating Safety/Violence & Sexual Misconduct  
Tip Line





# SSI – SUCCESSES




**1,440,874**  
Students reached

**1,857**  
Campus tipsters paid\*

**1,977**  
School cases solved\*

**\$287,430**  
In campus rewards\*

**2,032**  
Suspects disciplined/charged/  
arrested\*



**283 weapons**  
(76 guns, 165  
knives, 42 other)\*

**EDUCATION**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**SAFETY**

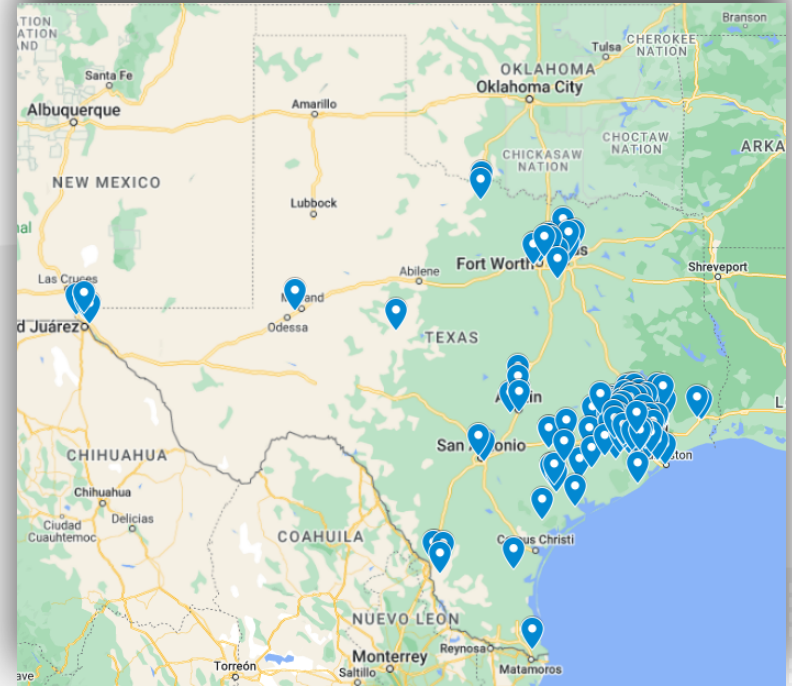


*\*through December  
2022*

# SSI – STATEWIDE EXPANSION

Governor Abbott recommended that Crime Stoppers of Houston expand its model statewide in his 44-page document:

**SCHOOL AND FIREARM SAFETY ACTION PLAN MAY 30, 2018**



# SAFE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE (SCI)



Established 2013 | Expanded 2022

Hub for all things community safety related



SAFE COMMUNITY PROGRAM



VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM



THE BALANCED VOICE PODCAST



RESEARCH CENTER



# SCI – SUCCESSES

**740,694**  
Community members reached through 71 podcast episodes.

**AWARENESS**



**327,694**  
Participants reached directly through Safe Community Program Presentations .

**EDUCATION**



**1923**  
Victims served through direct services, events, and peer support groups.

**VICTIMS SERVED**



**1,122,715**  
Individuals potentially reached through events, fairs and material distributions.

**OUTREACH**



**33,225,367**  
potential reach via social media and marketing outreach

**OUTREACH**



*\*Through Dec 2022*

# SCI 2022 REACH



# The Balanced Voice Podcast



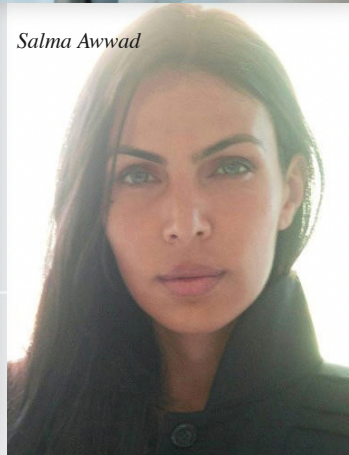
*Matthew McConaughey*



*Kyle Q.*



*Tamron Hall*



*Salma Awwad*



*Nancy Grace*



*John Quinones*



# LARGEST ORG OF OUR KIND IN US



# LARGEST ORG OF OUR KIND IN US





# ONLINE SAFETY



## Student Presentations

Cyber Safety



## School Staff Presentations

Cyber Safety Awareness

Cyber Safety & Human Trafficking Awareness

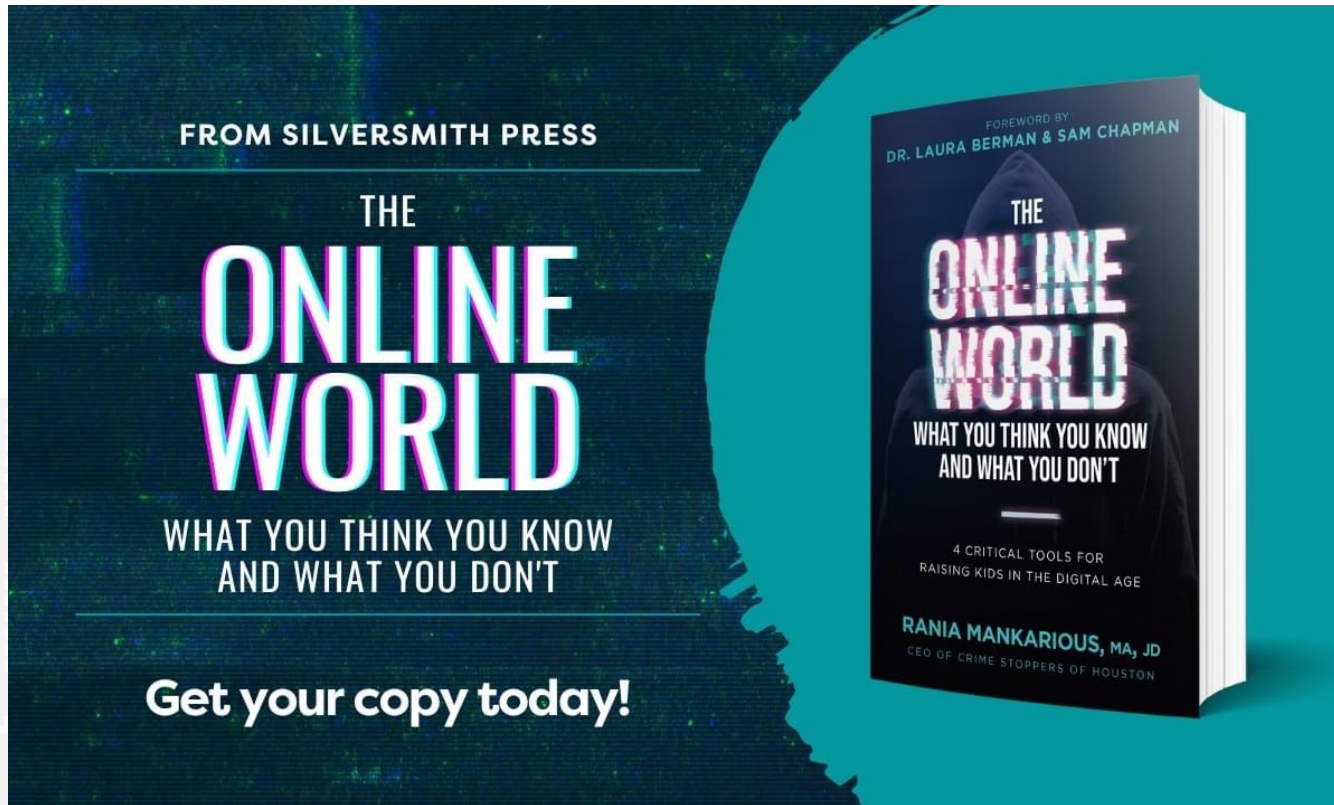
Gaming Safety

Social Media Safety

Teen Dating Safety/Violence & Sexual Misconduct  
Tip Line



# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK



**THE ONLINE  
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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

Why I wrote #TheOnlineWorldBook...



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

abc13 WATCH LOG IN

## Spring man charged with promoting child pornography through 'Kik' messaging app: Records



Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:42PM



EMBED <

MORE VIDEOS >



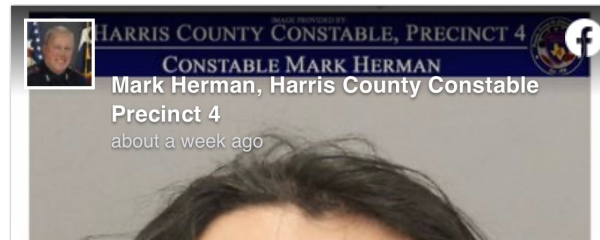
abc13 WATCH LOG IN

Authorities reportedly counted 94 images and videos of child pornography on Borja's messaging app, which he would allegedly send to other users.

Documents also revealed he communicated and tried to meet with an undercover officer for sexual purposes involving an 8-year-old child.

Borja faces seven counts of promotion of child pornography and was booked into the Harris County Jail.

His bond was set at \$210,000.



THE WORLD

# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

KMS

Thirst  
Trap



ASL

Finsta



Snap  
Streak

Bussin'

THE ONLINE  
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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

**What** the book covers...  
{issues + solutions}



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

- **Family Plan & top 7 Myths**
- **Family Exercises** (never before conversations)
- **Brain science & physical development (8+)**
- **Reality Check:** What does the online world really look like?
- **Rules** including my **Golden Rule:** How to talk to children? When to talk children? When are kids ready for a phone?
- **2.2 million apps? Never ending challenges?**
- **Four Power Tools:** (1) Brand (2) Community (3) Exit Strategy (4) Post Like a Celebrity/Influencer



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

**My Approach:**  
**Parents + Kids = Safety Partnership**  
**We must work together.**

- Can we successfully keep tech out of kids lives? No, AND:
- ***Parents vs kids vs technology*** is not a fair fight. {🏆 kids} BUT...
- ***Predators vs kids vs technology*** is also not a fair fight. {🏆 predator}
- Our kids can, will and do make good choices if we equip them to be “safety minded.”



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

## Goals for today

1. Issues - Family Plan and Myths
2. Realities - Do all kids connect with the online world?
3. Risks & Consequences of connecting
4. Strategies - Moving from chaos to a road map
5. Tools - 4 Power Tools



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# Family Plan

- WHO is involved?
- Are you UNITED?
- WHO do you tell?



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# Myths

## 8-years-old to 28-years-old

- **Parents:** *“I’ll keep them safe by keeping them offline”*
- **Parents & Kids:** *“Nothing that bad can really ever happen”*
- **Kids:** *“Social media platforms have safe guards to protect me”*



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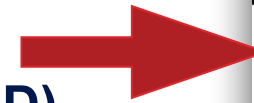
# Myths

## “I’ll keep them safe by keeping them offline”

- Nearly impossible. **77% are online** (Pre-COVID)
- Higher post-COVID.
- **How they Socialize, Learn, Communicate.**

## ALSO, REALITY CHECK:

- **Youth hide** their online activity (**70% Pre-COVID**)
- **Parents** have no idea what they are really doing or how to fully monitor
- **End Result** - KIDS are navigating alone



**CNN BUSINESS** LIVE TV

### Survey: 70% of teens hide online behavior from parents

John D. Sutter, CNN  
Updated 2:40 PM EDT, Mon June 25, 2012

Photo Illustration/Thinkstock

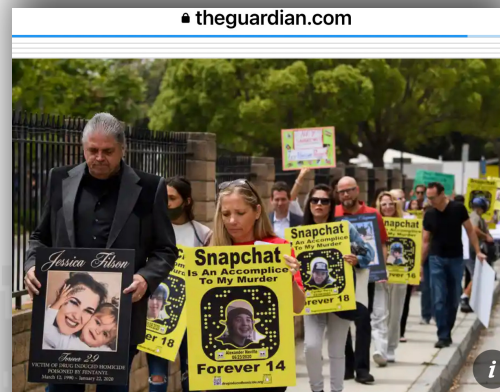
Almost three-quarters of teens "hide their online behavior" from parents, according to a new survey.



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# Myths

## “Nothing that bad can really ever happen to me online” **SAMUEL CHAPMAN’s Story (16)**



Opioids crisis  
**Killed by a pill bought on social media: the counterfeit drugs poisoning US teens**

Accidental deaths soar among young people amid a proliferation of fentanyl-filled pharmaceuticals sold on platforms such as Snapchat and Instagram

### Who was Samuel Chapman? OWN host Dr Laura Berman’s son, 16, dies of drug overdose after buying it on Snapchat

'A drug dealer connected with him on Snapchat and gave him fentanyl laced Xanax and he overdosed in his room. They do this because it hooks people even more and is good for business,' she said

By Saumya Dixit

Updated On : 18:59 PST, Feb 8, 2021

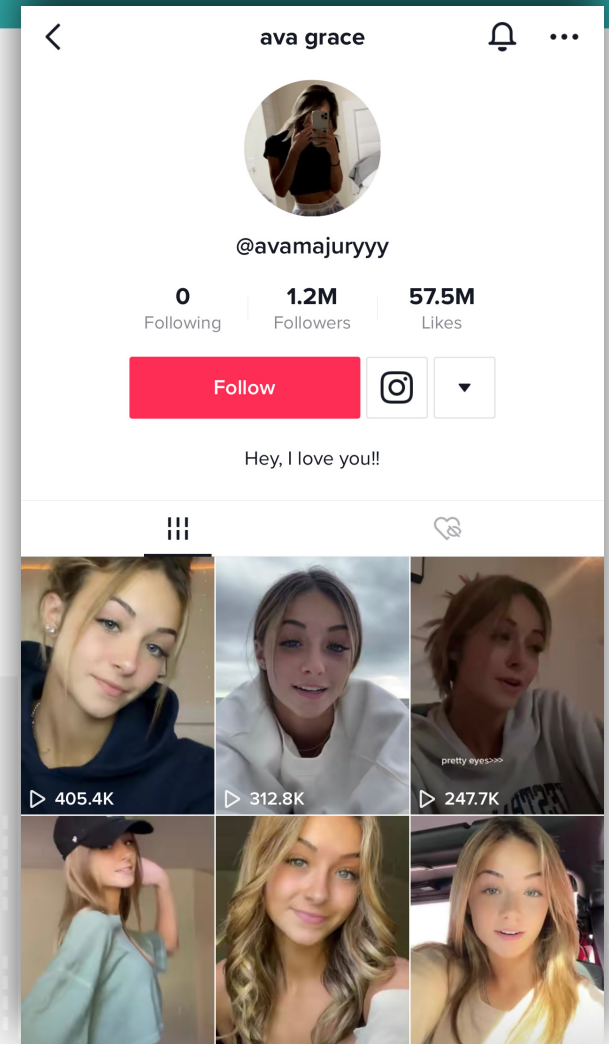


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# Myths

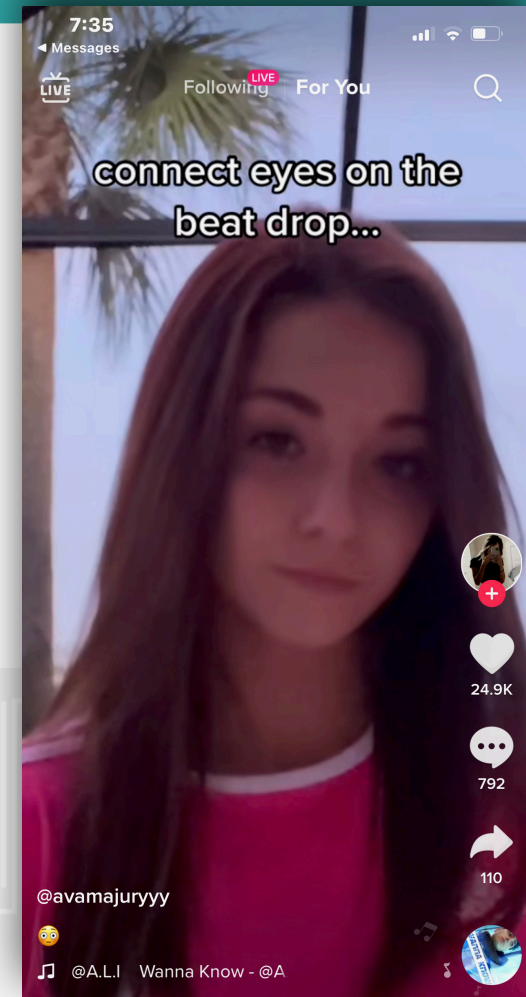
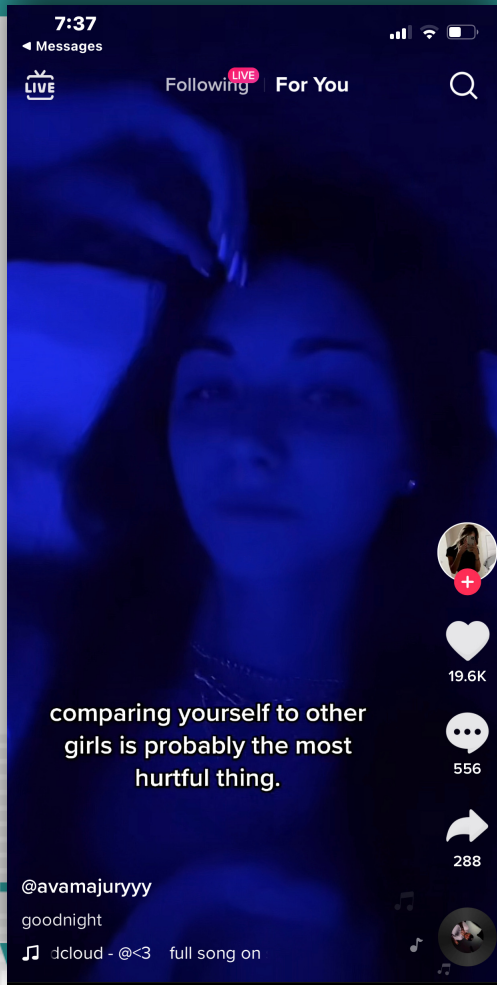
## ***AVA GRACE MAJURY's Story (15)***

1. Florid teen influencer
2. Engaged with her fans
3. "Innocent"



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# Myths





# Myths

## ***AVA GRACE MAJURY's Story (15)***

1. Had a stalker within her community
2. Stalker showed up at home, intent to kill her
3. Father ended up shooting 18-year-old teen



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 Daily Mail MORE STORIES 

US TikTok star, 15, reveals how ex-cop father shot dead stalker, 18, who turned up at their home to KILL her after buying her cell number from her friends: Dad is free under Florida's stand-your-ground law

By Jennifer Smith, Chief Reporter For Dailymail.Com and Andrea Cavallier For Dailymail.Com  
21:03 17 Feb 2022, updated 13:22 18 Feb 2022



 4.5k shares

 778 comments

- Ava Majury has amassed more than 1million followers on TikTok since launching her career there in 2020 

# Myths

New trends constantly impacting children.

December 19, 2022

wsj.com

WSJ

## FBI Warns About Extortion Schemes Targeting Boys

At least 3,000 children and teens have been victims of the scams this year, agency says



More than 7,000 reports of such plots have been made to law enforcement over the past year, the FBI said.

PHOTO: AL DRAGO/BLOOMBERG NEWS

By [Jennifer Calfas](#) [Follow](#) and [Aruna Viswanatha](#) [Follow](#)

Dec. 19, 2022 at 12:43 pm ET

amp.abc.net.au

NEWS


SHARE

## Number of teenage boys calling national helpline over sextortion increases rapidly in five years

ABC Radio Brisbane / By [Antonia O'Flaherty](#)

Posted Sun 5 Feb 2023 at 7:52pm

February 5, 2023



Sextortion attempts of boys and young men is on the rise. (Unsplash: Adrian Swancar)

Distressed teenage boys who have become victims of online sexual extortion are calling a national helpline at increasing rates, with 78 per cent of calls about the issue coming from young males over the past five years.



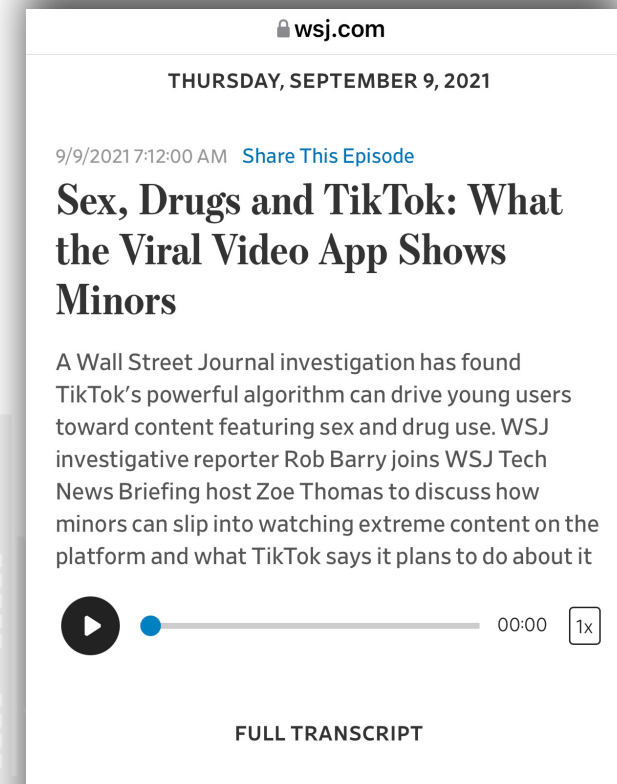
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# Myths

## “Social media platforms have ‘safe guards’ to protect me”

### Wall Street Journal Study:

- 13-year-old “OnlyFans”
- “For You” fed:
  - 569 drug videos** *and*
  - 100+ pornographic video content**
- **TikTok** blamed “Algorithms”



wsj.com

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

9/9/2021 7:12:00 AM [Share This Episode](#)

### Sex, Drugs and TikTok: What the Viral Video App Shows Minors

A Wall Street Journal investigation has found TikTok’s powerful algorithm can drive young users toward content featuring sex and drug use. WSJ investigative reporter Rob Barry joins WSJ Tech News Briefing host Zoe Thomas to discuss how minors can slip into watching extreme content on the platform and what TikTok says it plans to do about it

00:00 1x

FULL TRANSCRIPT



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# A few more from working with Youth

## Additional Myths...

- **Youth:** *“I deserve online privacy. I don’t need my parents monitoring my accounts or activity.”*
- **Youth:** *“I can handle everything I could possibly face online. I know what is happening on social media and I can keep up with it.”*

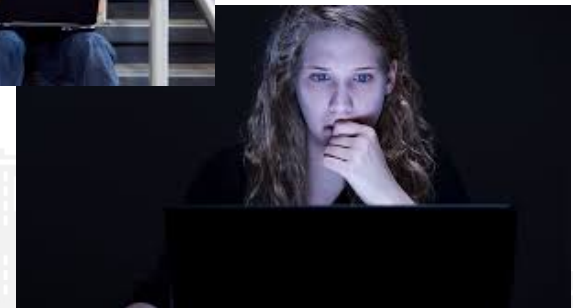
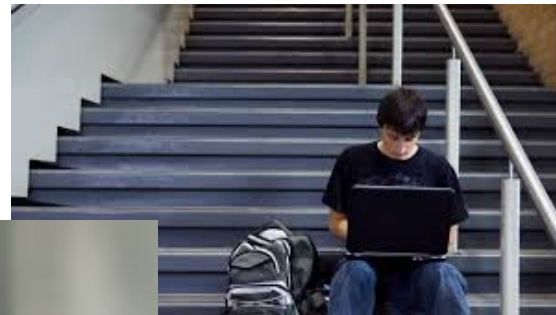


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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

## Goals for today

2. Realities: **ALL** kids are potentially **CONNECTED** to and **CONNECTING** with *everyone* and can be **EXPOSED** to *anything*..



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# Realities - General Overview

## • HOW DO KIDS CONNECT?

- Device (desktop, laptop)
- Phones
- iPads (why the focus only on phones?)
- Friend's device
- School device
- Gaming console
- Smart TVs
- Wristwatches
- Ebook readers
- Digital cameras
- Cash Apps
- Online shopping
- Etc., etc., etc.,



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# Realities - General Overview

- **HOW DO THEY GET EXPOSED?**
  - **On Purpose** - doing searches
  - **Unintentionally**
    - Spending time online being **bored**
    - Through **others'** gadgets
    - Watching what you thought were **age appropriate videos**
    - **Ads** that play even during age appropriate **APPs**



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# Realities - General Overview

- **REALITY IS YOU CAN'T BLOCK EVERYTHING**
  - Parents say no to **Instagram** -> kids go to **Pinterest**
  - Parents say no to **texting** -> kids hide texts via **WhatsApp**
  - Parents say no to a **phone** -> kids use their **friend's** (including having their own **VERY** active social media accounts that you know nothing about)



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# Realities - General Overview

- **WILL CONNECTIONS TO STRANGERS HAPPEN?**
  - Yes - and sometimes, we are part of the problem.
  - **“Sharenting” - 92% have online presence by age of 2**



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# Realities - General Overview

- We must find a strategy to protect them:
  - **Better approach!!** Let's TALK through issues EARLY and create tools to navigate
  - **Crime Stoppers of Houston** has free tools to carry all of us through this process



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

## Goals for today

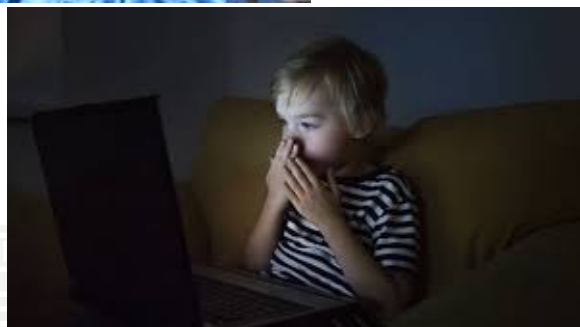
**3. Risks & Consequences:** How does the online world impact today's youth?  
(Sampling of issues...)



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# Risks

- **EXPOSURE:** Bullying, hate speech, aggression



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# Risks

- **CONSEQUENCES: Mental health issues**
  - **Chasing “Likes”** - leading to risky behavior, desire to trend
  - **Depression** - **up 56% in 8th graders (online for significant time)**
  - **Self harm** - **up 189% girls 10-14; up 62% girls 15-19**
  - **Suicidal ideation** - social media at least **5 hours/day** - **70% more likely to have suicidal thoughts; children 10-14 - 150% increase in suicidal ideation**
  - **Suicide** - **up by 70% in older teen girls**



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# Risks

- **DANGERS:**

- Pre-COVID, **33% of kids admitted to talking to strangers online.**
- Predators are real: **ONLINE SOLICITATION of minors up by 93% since COVID.**
- Malware
- Identity Theft

- **ADDICTIONS + DEADLY ACTIVITIES:**

- Phone - dopamine reward loop
- Gaming - addiction, ability to understand reality vs fantasy
- Pornography
- Drug - *uberization* of drugs and pills



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# Risks

- **PORNOGRAPHY / SEXUALIZED CONTENT:**
  - Pornography (~ **25M websites / 2.5B emails daily**)
  - By **8-years-old, 90% having been exposed**
  - Results? Sexual aggression, promiscuity, addiction, desire to create content, erectile dysfunction
  - 📱 Nudes - new First {1st} Base
  - 📱 Luring of children / Extortion of children



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bbc.com Done



ADVERTISEMENT

TRAVEL Fall in love with the world - all over again Discover

## Metaverse app allows kids into virtual strip clubs

By Angus Crawford and Tony Smith  
BBC News

16 hours ago



The entrance to a virtual strip club, accessed by the VRChat app

# Risks

- **Pornography exists even on games geared towards kids as young as 8 years old**
  - Sexual content on Roblox. How?
    - Not enough control over content
    - Games within are user generated
    - Gateway to porn acts and sites
    - Chat with endless users
    - Depiction of sex acts
    - Creation of sex games “marry me”, lets “play doctor.”

defendyoungminds.com



**TACKLE THE TECH**

## Parent Alert! Sexual Content on Roblox Plus 3 Safety Tips

 Kristen A. Jenson, MA  
October 5, 2021

Roblox is popular with kids all over the world. It currently hosts 142 million users and it's been [estimated that half of kids in the U.S.](#) under 16 have played Roblox. Sadly it's [easy for predators](#) and bad actors to infect the Roblox platform with sexual content.



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# Risks

- **DESIRE TO BE SEEN OR FAMOUS**
  - **2019 Study - kids 8 to 12: Astronaut, musician, professional athlete, teacher, Vlogger/YouTuber? Top choice for US/UK kids: Vlogger/YouTuber. Top choice for kids in China: Astronaut**
- **EASY TO BE FOUND / STALKING - Ex SnapMap**
  - GPS on nearly all devices
  - SnapMap 🤖
  - Photo stamps
  - Kid's posting habits or actions of friends/others make it easy to be found



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

*Parents + Kids = Safety Partnership*  
*We must work together.*  
*BUT HOW DO WE GET KIDS ENGAGED?*

- We Know the Problems are Endless.
- How do we get on a Road Towards Solutions?
- We need our Children Engaged.
- **We must Come Up With a Plan Using Terms / Concepts They Understand.**



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# THE ONLINE WORLD BOOK

## Goals for today

**5. Tools:** 4 Power Tools that apply at 8-years-old to 28-years-old



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# TOOL #1



EST. 1892  
Abercrombie  
& Fitch  
NEW YORK



NEW YORK



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# TOOL #1

- Tool #1 “Brand” - We need to know the WHY before the WHAT



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# TOOL #1

- **Recent study showed nearly 1/2 of kids want fame OR to be “seen”.**
- **EXERCISE: WHY are you online and WHAT will your brand be?**
- **EXERCISE: You have a “Digital fingerprint” - What will it be?**



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# TOOL #1

- **Study 100 kids 12 - 25:**
  - Does what you **POST, LIKE, COMMENT, SHARE** define who you are?  
**Majority: NO**
  - Have you **formed opinions of others you don't know** based simply on what they posted, liked, commented or shared? **67% YES**



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# TOOL #1

- THINK: In every stroke, you are either a:
  - **Participant** - a person **DOING** something (good or bad)
  - **Enabler** - a person **ENCOURAGING** something (good or bad)
  - **Bystander** - watching something bad and staying silent
  - **Disrupter** - someone not afraid to stand up for what's right; someone not afraid to disrupt bad behavior online



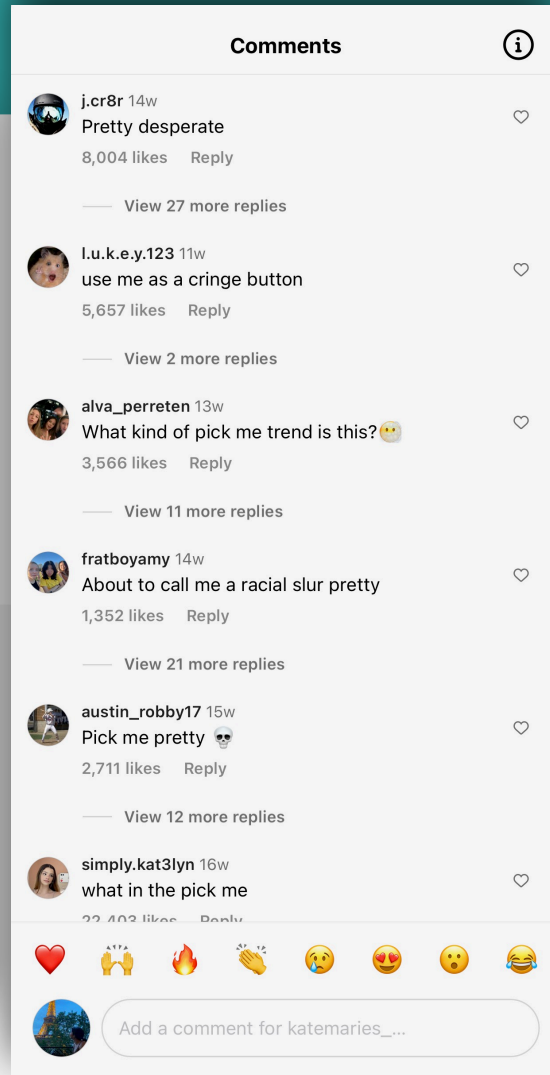
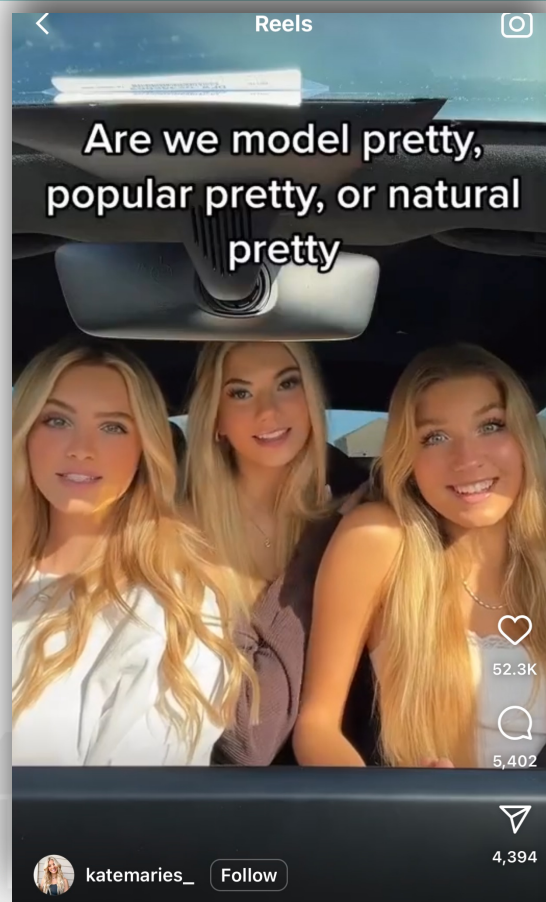
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# TOOL #1

Are you a:

- **Participant**
- **Enabler**
- **Bystander**
- **Disrupter**

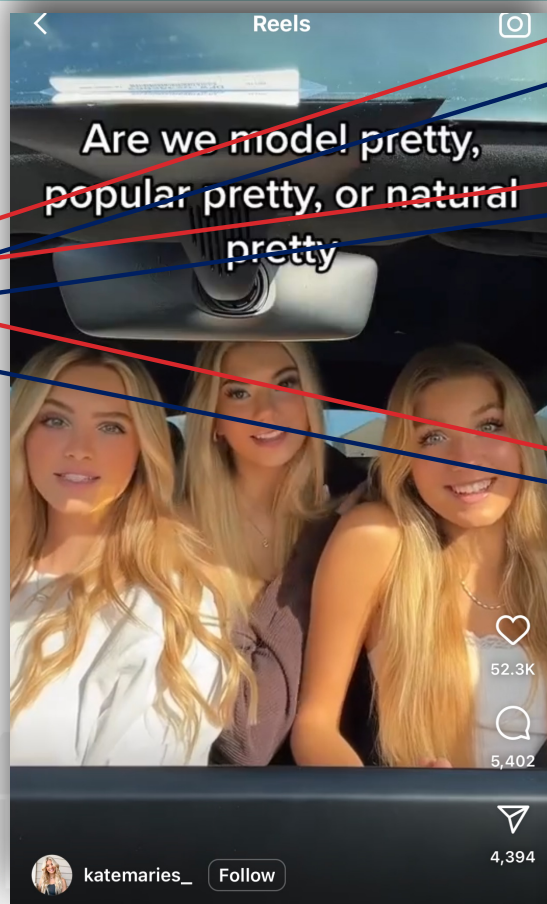


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# TOOL #1

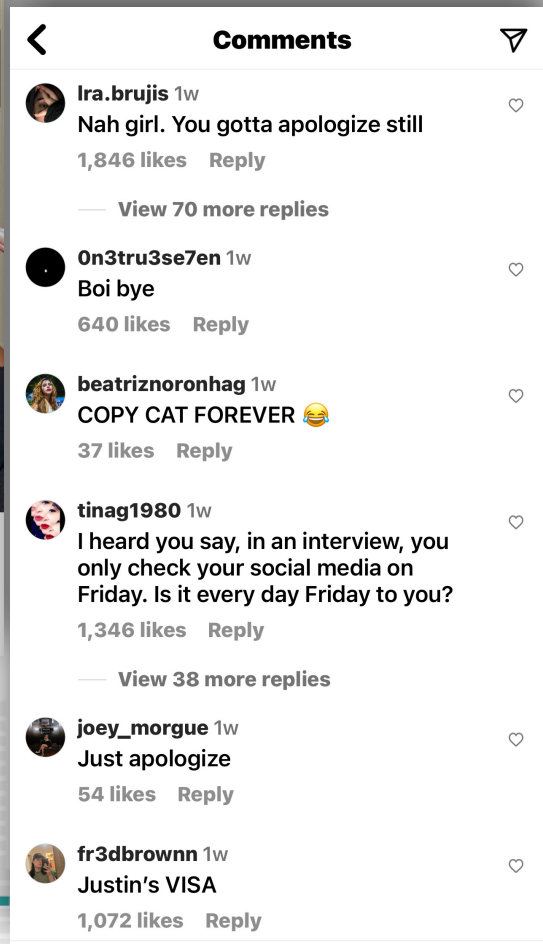
Are you a:

- **Participant**
- **Enabler**
- **Bystander**
- **Disrupter**



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# TOOL #1

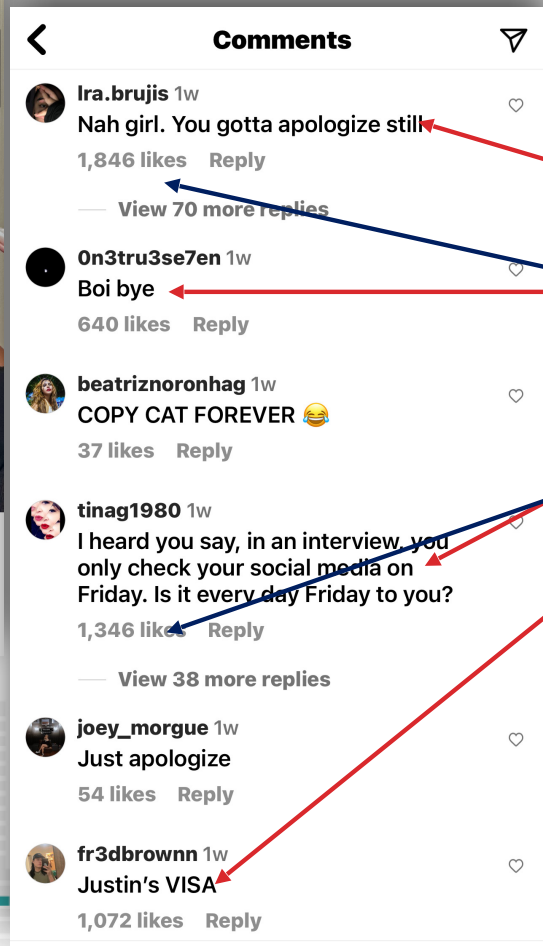


- Are you a:
- Participant
  - Enabler
  - Bystander
  - Disrupter



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# TOOL #1



- Are you a:
- Participant
  - Enabler
  - Bystander
  - Disrupter



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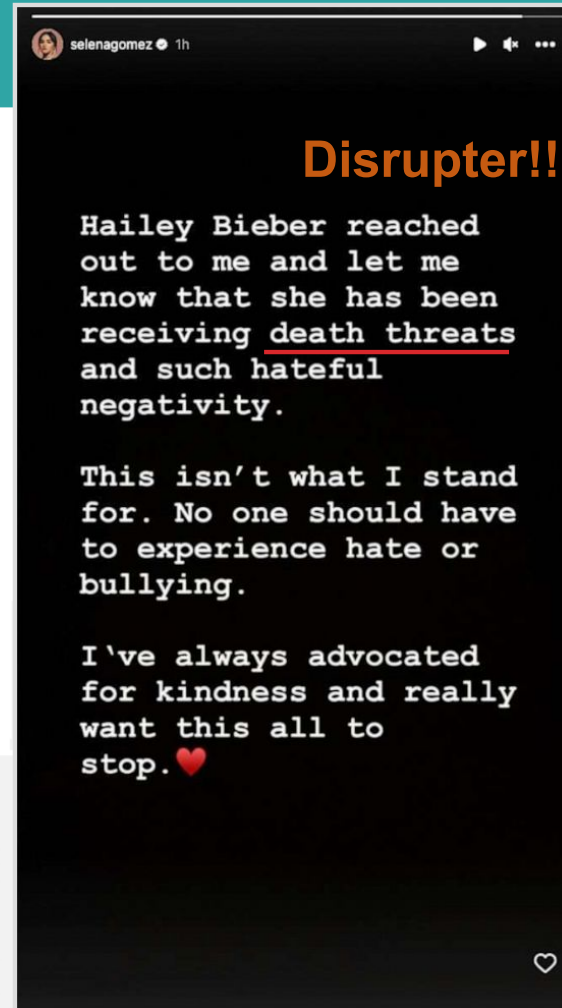
# TOOL #1

Disrupter!! 🙌💪



1.5 +PARTICIPANT POSITIVE ENABLERS

Disrupter!! 🙌💪



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# TOOL #1

*What does a “Brand” or “DIGITAL FINGERPRINT” look like?*

Harry Styles



Billie Eilish



Taylor Swift



Selena Gomez



Emma Chamberlain



The Rock



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## TOOL #2

- Tool #2 “Community - the WHO”

- Based on the **WHY** you are online, the **WHO** falls into place - *who will be in your community? Do you cast a wide net?*



CRIME  
STOPPERS  
CALL 713.222.TIPS

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## TOOL #3

- Tool #3 “Have an EXIT Strategy”
  - External threats vs Internal threats



- **KNOW** it, **RECOGNIZE** it, **BLOCK** it



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## TOOL #4

- Tool #4 “Post Like a Celebrity or Influencer”

**Who is the most famous celebrity / influencer / reality star you follow right now? Ask the questions...**

- Quickly kids understand...
- What about Reality Celebrities?



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# TOOL #4

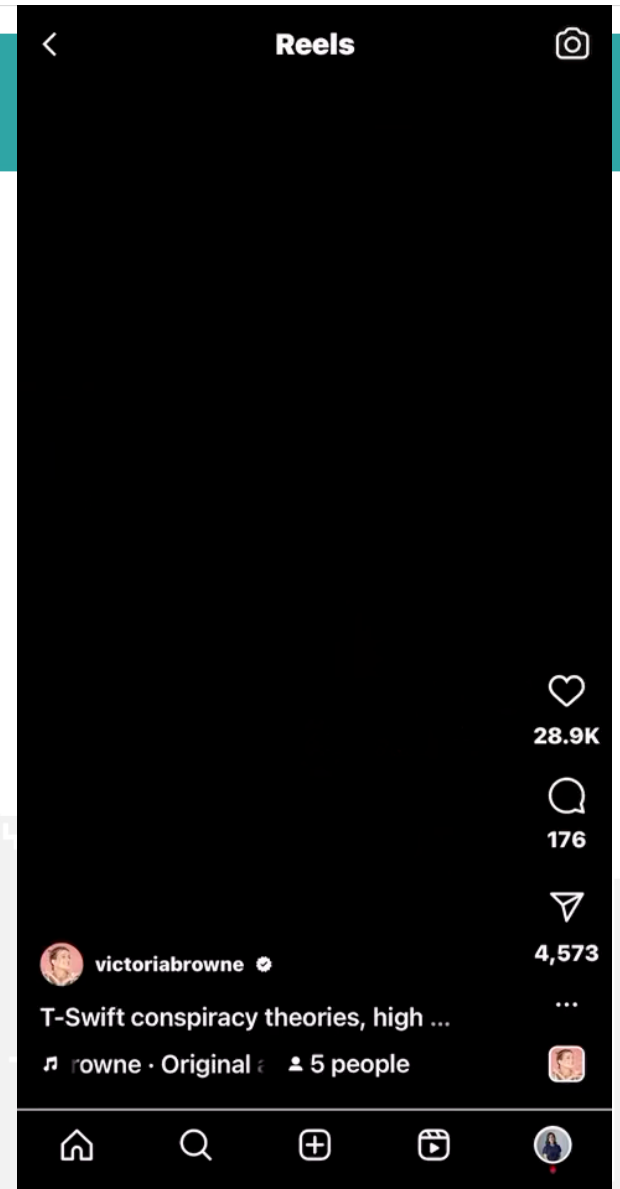
## Tool #4 “Post Like a Celebrity or Influencer”

*An ICON*


*We know the things “she’s been so careful to let us know”*



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## NOW WHAT? (A few takeaways)

- Want tech? Ok, but - let's be **realistic** about **dangers**. Let's be honest
- **WHO** will you be online? Revisit this often
- Care enough about yourself to **TURN OFF** location services
- **NEVER** post photos that show how to gain entry into your home or your license plate, home address, front of home
- **NEVER** send an **inappropriate photo** even to your best friend or love of your life
- **NEVER** send a **photo of yourself** (even an innocent one) to someone you're chatting with via **any** technology
- **BE ON THE ALERT**  when asked for personal information
- **BE AWARE** of **EXTERNAL** and **INTERNAL THREATS**, manage them



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## NOW WHAT? (A few takeaways)

- **BE ON THE ALERT**  Don't click on links, open attachments or accept gifts from someone you don't know.
- **NEVER** agree to meet someone you met online, alone or with your friends.
- **PARENTS:**
  - Allow for honest conversations!
  - **ALWAYS** have your kids passwords to ALL accounts.

Protect phone settings: <https://www.consumerreports.org/smartphones/how-to-use-parental-controls-on-a-smartphone-a4120021016/>



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# Parents...

- Crime Stoppers of Houston:
  - Go to [crime-stoppers.org](http://crime-stoppers.org) for FREE programming
  - Go to [crime-stoppers.org](http://crime-stoppers.org) to ask for a FREE presentation for children, parents, schools and communities
  - OR call 713-521-4600 for more information



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