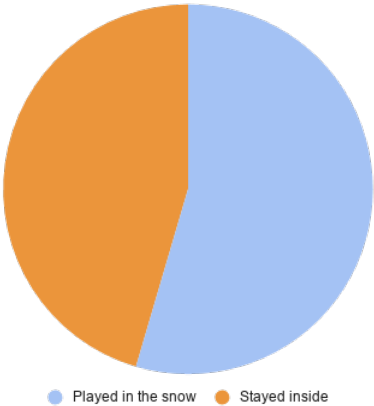


What's Your Opinion?

This week, we asked students if they took the time to play outside in the snow that covered much of Arkansas last week, or if they stayed inside where it was warm.

Out of 66 responses:
36 - Played in the snow
30 - Stayed inside



Next Week's Poll:

Midterm Madness
How have midterms been treating you?

Students can answer the poll and find previous poll results on The Herald's website, [the-herald.home.blog](#), or on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Website polls are posted on Wednesdays and Instagram polls are posted on Mondays.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website. All comics and memes can be found in the Comics section.

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



Lily Cabibi-Wilkin is a junior music composition major from Hot Springs.

Having been raised in the internet era, I've grown up having email etiquette ground into me. The standard format of bubbly yet professional emails feels like second nature to me. And yet, I've often run into teachers who respond to my perfectly formatted email with two sentences and a "Sent from my iPhone."

Meanwhile, texting with older family members is a cultural joke. The older generation's misuse of the Face with Tears of Joy emoji is a big meme, with many examples of Boomers mistakenly using it in place of a sobbing emoji to announce family deaths and injuries.

Why is this? Why do older people struggle so much to text, despite the fact that texting has been around for at

least 20 years now? Why does one of my grandmothers still sign half her texts and Facebook comments with "Love, Grammy"?

There's likely a cultural explanation, or maybe it's just habit. An article by The Outline suggests that many Boomers will use ellipses after their messages to avoid "concrete endings" or to "slow down" the flow of the messages. NYU professor Eliot Borenstein said that, "I like the idea of my comment just kind of...trailing off...in a thoughtful haze...It means I'm still thinking!"

My older family members aren't big users of the ellipses, but I've noticed that the Boomers tend to use short, clipped sentences, and they'll either use varied punctuation with every sentence or only use periods. I'm sure a message like "That's very interesting. Thank you for the photos." is meant to sound more enthusiastic than it comes across. This can be a problem: for Gen Z texters that put their heart and souls into their messages, it can be jarring to send a heartfelt message with emojis and all, only to receive a thumbs up emoji or an "OK."

My Gen X and Millennial relatives, meanwhile, use longer sentences and more human-sounding punctuation, but still write more formally. Every time my mom sends me a message, it reads like either a thesis paper or a branded social media post. My dad still sends shorter

messages with little emotion in them, but I suspect that's because he's spent most of my life texting with a traditional keypad on a flip phone, and only got a more modern phone a year or so ago.

It's possible that what's known as "multi-tap" texting, the style used on older phones, had a hand in the way Gen X and above sends their messages. Speaking from experience, sending long messages when it takes (at worst) four taps to type a single letter is a nightmare. I can definitely see how spending many years typing like that would hold over into more modern internet conversations.

My fellow Gen Zs and I grew up without these limitations. Full keyboards on computers and phones were what we grew up with, so we have the freedom to write fuller sentences. However, much of Gen Z messages are conveyed through emojis, shorthand, and slang terms (many of which, by the way, come from African American Vernacular English). Our style of texting is often made fun of by older generations who can't understand what "(skull emoji) lmao frfr" could possibly mean.

In my experience, Gen Z texting styles have a similar lifespan to memes. Nobody's sending pictures of the "I Can Haz Cheezburger" cat anymore, just like nobody's unironically using "zomg" anymore, because those memes are more than 10 years old. If an older person sent

a message to a Gen Zer that contained "on fleek," "swag," "YOLO," or any other outdated term, it would be pretty obvious that they're either woefully out of touch and/or trying way too hard to sound cool.

The constantly changing internet culture can be daunting for older generations to get into. It must feel like terms go in and out of style with every passing day. On our side of the spectrum, meanwhile, it feels like older generations haven't changed a bit when it comes to texting.

"(Skull emoji) lmao frfr"

Translation: That's very funny and also so true!

For any older readers wishing to take a step forward in time, I recommend watching how young people around you text and attempting to add that to your normal style in a way that feels natural. Don't go overboard or be weird, but if you're smiling while you write a message, send a smiley face emoji! Use an exclamation mark! Focus on how the person you're talking to will receive and read your message, and your tone will come across much better.

And in the meantime, if you've got an iPhone -- take the time to remove the "Sent from my iPhone" email signature.

"This Won't Work In College!" A Personal Reflection

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

We all heard it as high school students: "This won't stand in college!" "Teachers won't be this nice to you in college!" "We're testing you this way to prepare you for college!" But how much of that was actually true, and how much was speculation? Here's my personal take.

Essays

I wrote a LOT of essays in high school, mostly in my English classes, and they were always formatted to the letter. Twelve-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, X amount of words. Aside from one history class, I haven't had to write nearly as many essays since coming to college, and those I have had to write were less strict. Some teachers had a preference on word or page count, but most

didn't care as long as you wrote a good essay.

Free time

My junior year of high school, my school introduced a block schedule, with a few large gaps of free time and class lengths that changed day by day. The administration claimed that this was to prepare us for college. While the gaps of time in the day have been present, the difference between high school and college is that I can leave campus or go back to my dorm when I have a free hour between classes, rather than having to awkwardly sit in the library for an hour. My class times, meanwhile, are stagnant. In high school, I would have some classes for an hour on one day, and then an hour and 45 minutes on another. That doesn't happen in college.

Teachers

My teachers in high school were pretty nice, for the most part, and none of them really fear-mongered with me. I think I heard the phrase "your teachers in college will be a lot harder on you" only a couple of times. With my teachers in college, I feel that, while it varies from person to person, most of my teachers are as nice as my teachers in high school. The key difference between teachers in high school and college is my teachers here are a lot more understanding when it comes to things like tardies and missed assignments, and they have a bit more time to answer questions outside of class.

Studying and time management

I didn't study in high school. I didn't have to. Either I knew the material enough that I

didn't need to study, or I was so absolutely lost that studying wouldn't have helped me anyway. Besides, after school I was doing multiple extracurriculars, so my day was scheduled from dawn till dusk. In college, however, I've had to study, practice and handle my own scheduling. This has run into a few hiccups (like scheduling my COVID shot during one of my Zoom classes), but I feel like I've grown and gotten better at studying material since coming to college, mostly because I've had to in order to get through my classes.

Bonus Round: Things I Miss From High School

Watching people get into fights at 8 a.m., spending time around friends all day, getting home from school before sundown, vtech classes, and funny high school drama.

How my snow week went



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