

Is the TikTok ban for the greater good?

By Emma Bernatowicz

The app once known as musical.ly is now known to the world as TikTok. While this app has taken over the social media realm, there is talk of a complete TikTok ban. Could this be for the greater good?

As of February of this year, the United States recorded 135.7 million TikTok users that are 18 years old and older. According to a study done by [California State University](#), “approximately 10 percent of Americans are addicted to social media. With social media companies employing application strategies that provide feelings of instant gratification, using social media for an extended period of time can activate the same system seen in the brains of drug addicts.” This is a shocking analogy, as a society we are accepting the same feelings that drugs are bringing humans as normal. The instant gratification that social media gives people being equivalent to that of drugs is concerning.

The youth of America, the most impressionable people in our society, are becoming fully immersed into the world of social media. Tik Tok has become one of the main forms of media, if not the only form of media consumed by teens. An addiction to knowledge is not the issue, but social media is not just giving the users knowledge. As stated above, there is an analogy between the gratification from social media as the same feelings produced by drug use.

While I think a TikTok ban might seem extreme to some people, there is greater good than harm that would come out of it. Getting rid of TikTok would encourage people,



especially young people, to expand their knowledge past this fast-paced social media. A TikTok ban would not only eliminate a lot of where social media addiction falls, but it would also improve the attention span of people. As people have become adapted to TikTok as their main form of media consumption, their overall attention span has decreased hindering their ability to consume large volume media. There will always be people that want this form of entertainment to stay, but that's all it is and should be, entertainment.

To ban or not to ban has been the topic of conversation for some time now, and there will always be people on either side of the argument and in the middle. If we truly want to consider the well-being of the next generation, the use of TikTok as a news source and main form of media needs to be addressed. Social media in general is meant to be a form of entertainment and knowledge, so if TikTok is leading towards more social media addiction, a change needs to be made.