

Thank you for coming in, my name is Chris Hepburn and I will be moderating this evening. We are here to talk about your blogging habits, so without further ado let's get started. Please tell me your name and your household setup.

Hi, my name is Rose, and I am a stay-at-home mum, I live with my husband and my 2-year-old daughter Olivia.

Hi everyone, my name is Mark, and I'm in IT, I have a dog named Lorenzo and I live with my girlfriend.

I'm Josh and I'm a sous-chef, I have two roommates and [INAUDIBLE] home a few blocks from here.

Great, thanks everyone for coming. So you have all completed a homework assignment about your blogs, can you describe them?

Sure, I'll go first. Right now I blog about my experiences as a new mother. This is all new to me and- it's a great way to calm my nerves- and also keep my family up to date about Olivia.

So this is a recent undertaking?

Yes, I always liked reading blogs and wanted to start my own. I also take tons of pictures of Olivia, so this is a great place for me to organize them. With the blog, I can see when Olivia was a baby or when I was pregnant and what we were going through then. I also think it will be valuable to her when she grows up and wants to see what she was like but for me, it's mostly a creative outlet.

Why is that?

Well, because when I stopped working, I was isolated to the mommy world, and I needed to have my own voice that was geared towards adults.

Great, how about you, what type of blogging do you participate in?

I run a travel blog; my goal is to go to two different countries a year and fill up my passport.

So why blog about this?

Because the experience is fleeting and as Rose said I want my friends and family to know what's going on and where I am. In some way, it's a safety thing, but mostly is so I can reminisce about my experience traveling up to Vietnam coast or visiting volcanoes in Scandinavia.

And do you feel like blogging is a nice way to organize your experiences?

Yeah definitely, when I biked off 50 states it allowed me set a goal, organize the races and track the states.

Wow, that is amazing.

It was great I was able to take participate in some charity races too. I biked for the Arthritis Foundation and Tour de Cure which raises money for diabetes.

How do you document this?

I use my GoPro camera, it's pretty easy to strap on and use. I do end up looking like a cyborg but it works. For photos of myself, I ask someone after the race or use my drone.

Do you take both everywhere?

Yes, and my laptop, I do a lot of photo editing and posting while traveling so I have a Wi-Fi car that also travels with me.

And what's your process for posting?

I saved all my files in Camera Raw because of the resolution, they eat up your storage, so I have to quickly delete them from my SIM card and upload the files to Dropbox. If I have time, I will edit the photos in Photoshop and then post online. I don't write too much so the longest process is editing the levels and giving the [INAUDIBLE]

And how about you Mark, what do you blog about?

I have MS, so, after diagnosis I started blogging about my experiences.

MS?

Yeah, multiple sclerosis, it is an autoimmune disease. It's pretty rare that it affects people when they are young, so I started to blog for other people like myself who wanted to see they aren't alone but also do it for myself so I don't go crazy.

So this is just as much for other people as it is for yourself?

Yeah, for sure it's a good outlet for when I get frustrated but I also like to post about the efficacy of treatments like Ocrevus, beta-interferon, and glatiramer acetate injections. It really organizes things for me and my doctors, I can see what works and what doesn't.

So let's switch to social aspect of blogging. Would you say blogging is social or isolating?

For me- it's really social, I get a lot of feedback from my posts, from other parents, and I keep the comments board active.

I would say isolating, I don't have a message board, but people can DM me through the site.

How about you?

I'm more social. I ran my blog almost like a travel site for others to use, I even have ads from companies on there like [INAUDIBLE] and Patagonia.

How did you set that up?

They came to me, I think they sponsor a lot of blogs as grassroots efforts for the brand.

That wraps everything up for this topic. I want to thank you for your time.

Thank you.

Thank you, Chris, take care.

Bye.

Bye.

Bye.