# Social media messages & Audiences

How NOT to Lose Friends and Alienate People

## Why do social media messages matter?

Creating effective messages for social media generates widespread attention for organizations, products, issues, and causes.

## It's how we communicate.



2.13330800BillionMillionMillion

Active Monthly Users

## It's cost effective.

How are organizations crafting successful messages on social media for their audiences?

## SET GOALS AND PLAN

Key aspect of successful strategic communication or strategic marketing is figuring out what an organization wants and how to achieve it.

## SET GOALS AND PLAN

- BatKid
  - 7 year old cancer survivor's wish with Make-A-Wish-Foundation is to be Batkid for a day. San Francisco community unites in support.
  - Small PR firm handled social media for free.
  - Their goal was simple: get the #SFBatKid trending and raise awareness for the event.
  - Their plan: Set up @SFWish and @PenguinSF accounts, Twitter chat, and use #SFBatKid in everything. Take pictures and video as Miles does each event throughout the day.

## SET GOALS AND PLAN

- Culminated in 600,000 tweets and 1.7 billion impressions. Website received 1,000 hits per second during peak times.
- The event was so widespread, through word of mouth and social media, 20,000 people showed up for the key ceremony.



Source: Fast Company Actor and Miles Scott

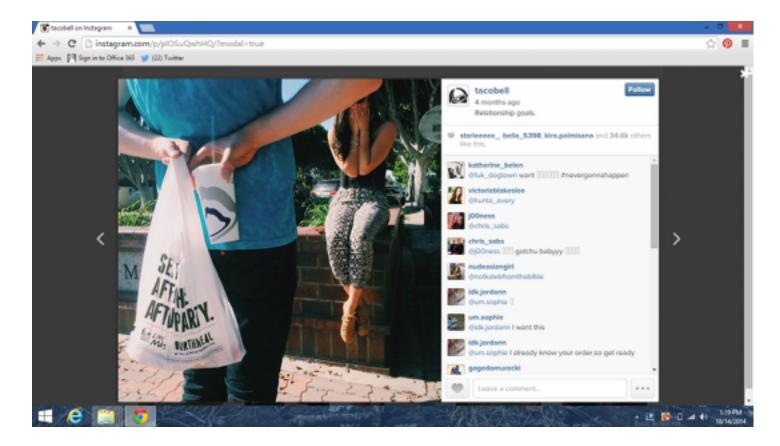
- Understand the community and create messages that feel authentic for the medium and for the audience.
- Know the limitations of each medium
  - 280 characters = Twitter, 15 seconds = Instagram Story
- Seems like a contradiction to plan AND be organic at the same time, but organizations do this often.

Taco Bell is an example of a company that strategically advertises on social media and organically engages with its audience.

- Similar creative approach as traditional media, but with Instagram in mind
- Reached 12.5 million 18-44 year olds
- Saw gains in ad recall

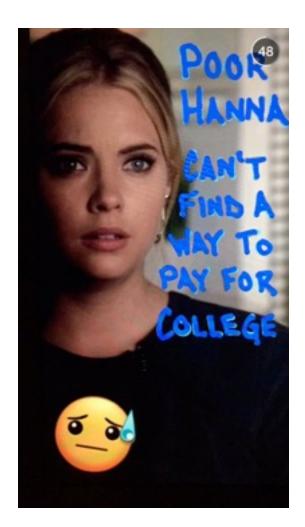


Source: Ad Age/Instagram Caption: Wake Up. Live Mas. #Breakfast



Caption: Relationship goals 34.6K likes

- Pretty Little Liars joined Snapchat in January 2015.
- Gained 500,000 followers in two weeks
- 36 million views on in two weeks.



#### • Hire users who influence the medium



• <u>http://shonduras.com/</u>

## **ENGAGE WITH YOUR AUDIENCE**

- Audience engagement can be defined in many ways and mean **different** things for **different** organizations and platforms.
- Create messages that allow audiences to interact or get involved with your organization , its content or products.
- Persuasive writing is key!

## **ENGAGE WITH YOUR AUDIENCE**

- Kirkland's gained 203,604 Facebook fans in less than 30 days.
- Used interactive, games and incentives to drive likes and to keep users coming back to its FB page.
- Nashville-based Redpepper headed this campaign.



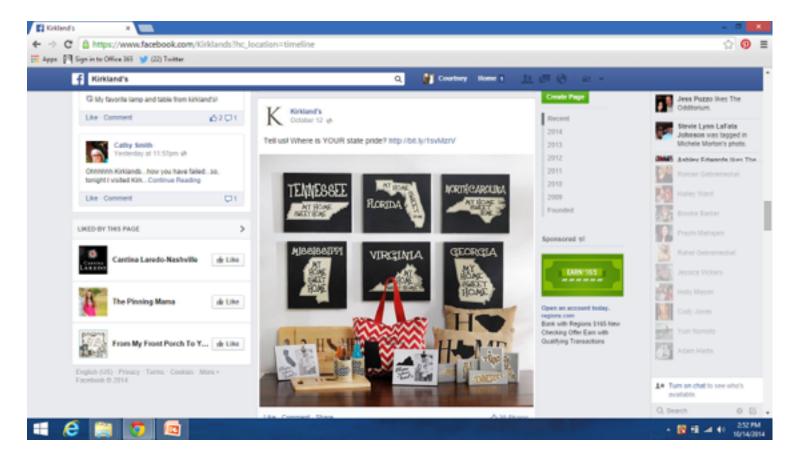
Source: Redpepper

## CREATE CLEAR, CONCISE, SHAREABLE CONTENT

- Audience engagement is connected to clear, concise, or shareable content.
- Market research varies on the effectiveness of text, link, image and video posts.
- Research consistently shows that people respond to and share visual content.

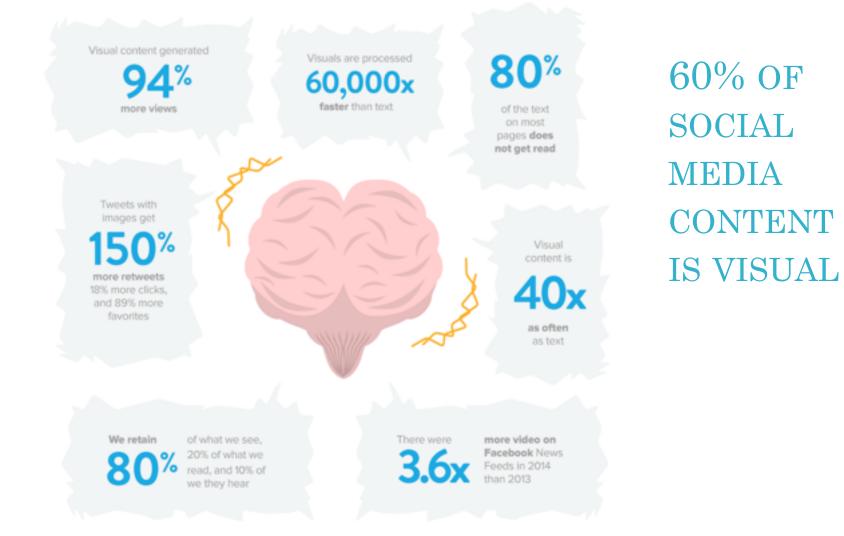
# **BuzzFeed**

## CREATE CLEAR, CONCISE, SHAREABLE CONTENT



Post reads: Tell us! Where is YOUR state pride?

#### BECAUSE OUR MINDS ARE WIRED VISUALLY



## **BE CONSISTENT**

• Consistency =/= frequency

• Tone

- Level of engagement
- Consistency very much connected to search engine optimization (SEO)

**BE CONSISTENT** 

• UNICEF on Instagram

• <u>https://instagram.com/unicef/</u>

• Same types of posts and pictures

• Same level of engagement

• 3 to 4 posts a day

• Same tone

## **CROSS PLATFORMS**

- •Use other platforms, traditional or new media platforms, to promote and bolster your social media message.
  - Messages that can be easily utilized or identified in other media platforms are very effective.

## •Related to SEO

#### **CROSS PLATFORMS**



## **CROSS PLATFORMS**

• Humans of New York is a catalog of New York residents, their pictures and stories.

- Tumblr, Instagram and Facebook accounts have very similar content, which maximizes its audience
  - 7.7 million Instagram followers
  - 18.2 million Facebook page likes
  - 792,000 followers on Twitter

## **BE AN "EARLY INVESTIGATOR"**

- Know the "next big thing" in social media. Try it. See if it makes sense for your audience or brand.
- Staying ahead of the curve allows brands to stay inventive and keep up with what audiences want.
- HOWEVER ... don't go to a new platform just to be there. Have a strategy ... and know your audience!

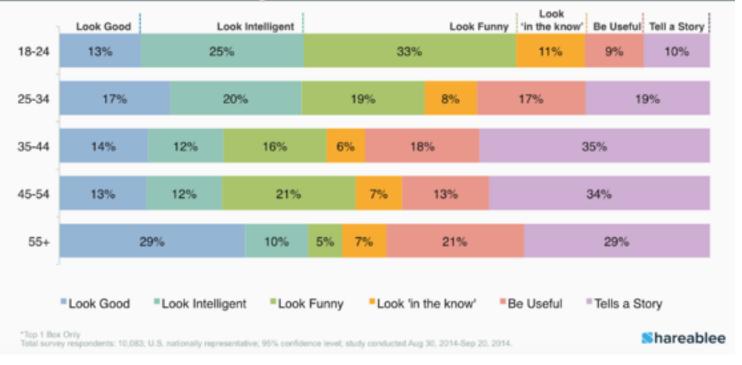
## **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE**

• Know the demographic and psychographic make-up of the audience using social media platforms



#### **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE**

## Which attributes do people 'strongly agree' is a driving factor in social sharing?



# KNOW WHEN TO JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON

• When a pop culture moment happens, brands should consider joining in the conversation.



🔅 💄 Follow

"Cheddar Bey Biscuits" has a nice ring to it, don't you think? #Formation @Beyonce



- Too many organizations show a lack of sensitivity or cultural awareness on social media.
- Be careful of language, images, and framing that provoke racial, gender, religious biases and stereotypes.
- Anticipate your message being co-opted or "hijacked."

AP	The Associated Press @AP - 26m MORE: Suburban Detroit homeowner convicted of second-degree murder for killing woman who showed up drunk on porch: apne.ws/1zXWJIO
	★ ★ 224 \$ ★ 41 () ····

•Results in satirical reframing of headlines and stories using #APHeadlines, which became a U.S. Trending Topic

•@PrestonMitchum: "BREAKING: Police Officer Shoves Black Woman To The Ground; Ground Survives" #APHeadlines

•Deleted tweet. Reposted link with a different message.

•Spokesperson says it's "reviewing polices and procedures for Twitter"

- JP Morgan used #AskJPM to engage customers on Twitter.
- The presumed goal of engaging their audience and giving advice was halted when users took over the hashtag message.



It's a **#TwitterTakeover**: We'll host our 1st live Q&A on leadership & career advice w/a leading **\$JPM** exec on 11/14. Use **#AskJPM** to submit a Q



Source: ABC News

@adamcoleman: Can I have my house back? #AskJPM

@ddayen: What's it like working with Mexican drug cartels? Do they tip? #AskJPM

@rickasurus: Where do babies come from? #AskJPM



- Major backlash
- Resulted in #NewStarbucksDrinks and co-opting of #RaceTogether
- "Malcolm Xpresso <u>#NewStarbucksDrinks</u>"
  Jujoffer
- "Chai Felicia <u>#NewStarbucksDrinks</u>"
  - FemmeBrigade
- Executives receive harassing tweets
- Negative to neutral news coverage
- Sparked debate not about race, but corporations role in helping race relations.

#### Know your audience!

- Pinterest: Women over represent
- Snapchat: 12-34 year olds over represent
- Twitter: African Americans over represent

#### Sources and Media examples

- <u>http://www.fastcompany.com/3029395/bottom-line/how-the-most-successful-brands-dominate-instagram-and-you-can-too</u>
- <u>http://blog.business.instagram.com/</u>
- <u>https://business.twitter.com/success-stories</u>
- http://redpepperland.com/work/details/kirklands-chaching-promotion
- <u>http://abcnews.go.com/Business/jpmorgan-chase-admits-twitter-qa-bad-idea/story?id=20887665</u>
- <u>http://mashable.com/2012/08/24/visual-storytelling-brands/</u>