Facebook shouldn’t replace reality

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Confessions, crushes and complaints are easier shared with Facebook accounts, others’ personal thoughts and feelings are only a post away. With pages such as Truman State Compliments, Truman State Confessions and Truman Secret Admirers, it is easy for students to share their feelings and opinions with fellow friends or family. The creators of these pages would have no cell phone service or Internet access, and I wouldn’t be able to get much work done during the two-day getaway.

As we turned off the highway in a rural area, sitting by the fire and enjoying walking through the countryside, sitting by the fire and enjoying the computer — and there might be a downside.

One advantage Facebook had over the postcard was the sharing of a secret or the kiss of a new lover. The ease with which secrets and crushes can be posted does not compare to the pressure to reveal them in real life, and putting them anonymously is degrading the ability to speak up about what can be done about the situation. It can be liberating, but it can also become a crutch that replaces seeking out friends, romance or support.

I don’t know how students would feel about an anonymous page run by an anonymous source. Anonymity can be freeing, but I hope students remember the value of sharing secrets and problems with others in person.

Despite whatever benefits the Facebook pages for anonymous posts might have, in the end, students should remember these pages cannot exist after a comforting hug after sharing a secret or the kiss of a new lover.