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New Media and Communication

### Memes

I do not consider myself to be a meme connoisseur or anything, but I am definitely not a stranger to this hilarious online phenomenon. I spend a decent amount of time weekly looking at funny memes on Instagram and I even follow a few accounts dedicated to specifically posting memes. I think they help provide a much-needed source of humor and break from the craziness of life. They are really easy for people to find and whether or not you specifically relate to them, they usually have a way of making you laugh at the most ridiculous things. Making a meme though, is a little harder than finding the good ones on the Internet, although definitely not impossible. I think I see them so often that I kind of already have a sense of how they are generally composed and what they are meant to convey. I can imagine it might have been more difficult for me to create a meme if I was not someone who frequently looked at and laughed at them. All I really did was scroll through my options of memes until I saw an image that brought a caption that was potentially “meme worthy” to my mind, and then I used that.

This stock character is one that I found on memegenerator.net called “Jules33333”, and it looks as if it was originally from a girl’s Snapchat. (The dimensions of the photo are the same as Snapchat’s and it is a selfie.) The photo is of a girl’s face (Jules?) and it is a close-up of her looking at someone or something with fake interest with a sort of bored look on her face. From what I can tell, the image is generally used to say things that are more exasperated or annoyed, in a sense. One caption example that I saw on this particular meme was: “When you realize... Spring Break is over”. I think that sort of caption sums up the general idea that this meme is used to try to convey to others.

With this meme, I was trying to convey something that I sort of find myself dealing with pretty frequently – listening to stories about things that are not interesting to me personally in any way. I feel like other people usually have to deal with the same thing at some point or another, so I thought it might make a decent meme. I think that the image macro template worked for me in this particular instance, but I am sure that it would not exactly work for all other memes. The template I used was a very general one, and there are many more templates that can be used to assist in conveying the feelings, emotions, or situation that someone might want to convey. This particular template was liberating for me because it helped to break up the caption I had created in a way that I feel like made it more interesting.

Personally, I do not see myself continuing to engage with memes from the mindset of creating them, but I will definitely continue to engage with them via observation. Like I already mentioned, I do enjoy looking through memes and I always send my friends the funny ones so they can laugh at them too. I have actually been in work before and started crying because I was laughing too hard at memes. I think they are a brilliant genre of humor, I just do not see myself as being someone that is particularly skilled at creating them. I would much rather let someone else complete the more difficult step of actually creating the memes, this way I could just continue to find and laugh way too hard at them while I am procrastinating doing work or homework.

I could not figure out how to save the meme I created (the website kept glitching and would freeze every time I tried to save) so here's a link to the meme I created. I apologize for the bad quality. I tried re-creating it and re-loading the page so that I could save it, but it just was not working.

<https://cdn.meme.am/Instance/Preview?imageID=17349203&text0=pretending to listen to someone tell you a story&text1=that you don't really care about>