

The Pokemon company is a very successful business. They release very successful titles in the Pokemon series, such as Pokemon Red, Gold, and White. However, one of their most recently released titles, Pokemon Go, raises some eyebrows. It uses the technology on your phone to simulate a Pokemon world. The app was really successful, but not everyone is happy about its success. Sarah Needleman released an article called, "Pokemon Go Craze raises Safety Issues". In it, she explains some of the dangers of playing the game. Another article, "Pokemon Go. The one serious problem everyone should worry about," by Bernard Marr, explains what the company, Niantic, does with your data and information while playing. Lastly, "The Psychological Pros and Cons of Pokemon Go," an article from Psychology Today, explains the pros and cons of the game. I believe that teenagers should not play Pokemon Go, because of the locations of in-game 'Poke Stops', the information that Niantic can view of you, and the psychological cons of the game.

To commence, the location of in-game 'Poke Stops' can put teenagers in danger. The 'Stops' have items that help the player out, and may contain new Pokemon. Needleman explains in her article that, "The placement of 'Poke Stops' and 'Gyms' raise questions about whether players could get hurt searching unsafe areas... particularly while staring at a smartphone screen." When the game came out, there were a lot of news stories about people getting hurt or even killed at popular 'Poke Stop' locations. For example, I heard on the news that a group of teenagers were killed at a 'Poke Stop' because they were lured towards it. The possibility of death while playing this game is unlikely, but you should still be cautious. Needleman writes in her article, "The game could be leading people into places they don't belong, such as construction sites or shuttered storefronts." I once saw a video on Youtube, where two teenagers traveled to Area 51, to see if they could find a rare Pokemon. There was a high

risk factor in doing so, as they could have been sent to prison, had they been caught. You shouldn't risk your life or freedom over a game.

Furthermore, the company Niantic keeps track of all your information while using the app. This creates the possibility of identity theft, which is another major problem in the U.S. Bernard Marr, writes, "Pokemon Go uses your phone's location, your IP address, and the webpage you most recently visited before playing, all connected with your real name and account information..." . The fact that they can view your current location is one of the most concerning things parents are worried about. Someone can hack the game to view your personal information and location, and the next day someone robbed your house and stole your identity. Although this is highly unlikely, it can still happen to anyone. The game is free-to-play, so teenagers will be the first to download. However, as Marr elaborates, "Especially with apps, where we we download something for free, and want to start using it quickly people never read the terms of service agreements... and don't understand the full information they're voluntarily giving away." I myself do this all the time. I never actually read the terms of service, which many other teens do as well. The game takes our information without us knowing it, which is why teenagers should not play it.

Lastly, Pokemon Go has some negative psychological effects. A lot of teenagers have depression or anxiety, so this game can make them worse. Psychology today found that " even when players are outside, they are distracted by being on their phones, and players are continually in a heightened stressed state..." . My mother always tells my sister and I to look up when we are in public. Being on our phones while walking makes us less social and of course more stressed. That is why my mom tells us this. Although some may argue that Pokemon Go provides teenagers with an opportunity

to exercise, they need to understand that there are other ways to exercise besides playing this game. It is the parent's job to promote exercise to their teens, not an app's.

In conclusion, I believe that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers. For one, the placement of in-game 'Poke Stops' is concerning, Niantic has access to all the information on your phone, like your IP address and current location, and you can become more stressed and antisocial while playing this game. I played the game when it was popular, and I thought it was entertaining. However, I did not play it everyday, because of the risks it put players in. The game has died out, but I know some teens who still play it. You shouldn't be risking your life and freedom to "catch'em all."