UPDATES OR DOWNDATES? WHERE DOES THE LINE STAND? By Grayce Workman

You’re a teenager in high school. Even if you don’t have *Snapchat* or *Instagram*, I am 99 percent positive that you have heard the majority whine and complain about the up roaring dilemma of the downgrading update that dropped in January. For *Snapchat,* its inconvenience has drove more than 800,000 (800,000!!!!) Snap users to sign an angry petition to urge Snap Inc. to backtrack to the old version again. The new “update” has moved the whole layout we have all, at any age, learned to love. Snap stories have been categorized by who you talk with the most--no more stalking that crush of yours! Bummer, right? The tea you spilled to your best friend through the DM section? Yeah, good luck trying to un-save it! If your best friend, who isn’t actually your best friend, decides to save it from their phone, it is not going away! Let’s see how many secrets stay hidden with that feature! In addition, often when I am having a conversation with someone, if I swipe out, it is hard to find that person again. The search engine doesn’t even work right. Half of the on-app news stories that I subscribe to are gone one day and there the next, and it is just confusing. It’s safe to say that Snapchat is the least used app on my phone right now.

As for Instagram, yet another online petition demanding the company ditch the idea of a *Facebook*-styled timeline and revert to its chronological has already been signed by more than 100,000 users in one day! We all know Instagram was the main way of ghosting our exes and stalking our crushes activity secretly. Even if you aren’t about the stalking, it’s still annoying having to explain to your friend that you were not in fact scrolling through their whole account just because you liked a picture from 124 weeks ago. It just somehow appeared on your page! It actually happens to me a lot. On January 25th this year, a worldwide crash took place, and users everywhere were having trouble logging into their accounts via their mobile devices. Thankfully, I didn’t have this issue, but I can empathize with the aggravation and five-second heart attack you probably had.

However, I do love *Instagram*’s new features like insta-stories and the filters they have added, but it’s having me think that they are copying straight from *Snapchat*’s book. The DMs are also nice because you can at least decide if you want to accept or decline a message from strangers, which is safe in my opinion. I just think that we, as users, should be notified and asked if an update is something we want. If it isn’t, we should have the option to decline the update and keep it the way it is. Forcing the updates on us is controlling, and if there is anything I have learned from my generation is that we do not like to be controlled. There’s going to be a time when we are going to be fed up with *Snapchat* and *Instagram* and move on to the next social app that makes the charts.

You may tell me that I am bashing the two apps that you all love, and my response to you would be, “Of course I am”. *Snapchat*, especially. It has been four months since the large petition was signed and brought to headquarters, yet nothing has been done. Snapchat, SHAME ON YOU! Your users are trying to tell you something, and you aren’t listening! Take this commentary and use it to help your business! You want an extra buck? Lower the prices on personalized geo-filters! Trust me, most teens will do anything to look cooler or more original! Instagram, wanna be more like *Snapchat*? Try *not* being like *Snapchat*! Their success came from their originality! These social media sites need to get their acts together before we all backtrack to *Twitter* and *Myspace*.