

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the problematics of new media in the field of media education in the second stage of basic education. In the first part of the thesis, history of social media is presented. Their influence and conduct in society have changed with their mass growth. The development of media production presents risks which need to be faced through complex education of society; development of media literacy, digital literacy, critical thinking, and reading is therefore crucial. The theoretical part of this thesis describes how the age group of lower secondary education students utilizes media. Moreover, the reader is introduced to risks which adolescents face online, and subsequently, means of preparing students for these risks are devised. The second part of the thesis consists of three projects dealing with media literacy and critical thinking advancement. Students are learning to critically assess media messages and they examine all factors which influence message production. Furthermore, the students work with visual image material in a similar way, and they reflect on their own media and digital technology usage.