We discuss differences and similarities between deaf and hearing teen’s usage of electronic communication mediums. Five common themes: Identity, Connection, Control, Tension, and Convenience were identified from the analysis of the data collected. These themes allow us to explore electronic communication from the "use-centric" view of teenagers who are indifferent to the underlying technology supporting this communication. Subjects. Information Systems not elsewhere classified. To study the electronic communication patterns of Deaf teenagers, we recruited twelve participants with the cooperation of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD). This is a public, K-12 school for students who are deaf, and its enrollment area covers the majority of North Georgia, including the Atlanta metro area. Like the teens in Smith et al.’s study [31], the Deaf teenagers sometimes felt overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of contacts and the social energy expended maintaining them. Students used away messages as a means to get private time without explicitly offering explanations. One student explained that he used away messages if he was in a bad mood and wanted to be out of contact for awhile.