

Leslie Fuerte
Per. 3-4
ELA

Argumentative Essay #1

Social Media has been growing at a really fast pace over the last decade. Many people are questioning whether social media is or is not beneficial for today's youth. In, "Antisocial Networking?" by Hilary Stout, an infographic article, it shows the many ways social media has impacted people's lives. It has impacted people's lives both positively and negatively. From helping people with their identity exploration to reducing their self-esteem, many good things can be said about social media and how it is a whole world of possibilities. However, social media has made a negative impact on people's life for three general reasons: Obsession, Lack of face-to-face communication, and reduction of future friendships.

First and foremost, much of society has fallen in the trap of social media. In addition, making them inseparable from their phones, tablets, computers, and more. Many can say that it has even become an obsession. According to Resource B, "Half of American teenagers-defined in the study as ages 12 through 17-send 50 or more text messages a day and that one third send more than 100 a day." Studies have shown how teens are being sucked up by the quickly-growing tornado that is social media. If this wasn't bad enough, Hilary Stout states in Resource B, "Between the ages of 8-18 spend on average 7 ½ hours a day using some sort of electronic device, from smartphones to MP3 player to computers." Instead of doing something healthy and productive, teens would much rather decide to waste 7 ½ hours of their day on using social media/technology. This just comes to show how truly obsessed teens have become.

In addition, because teens are now glued to their technology, they would much rather text than communicate face-to-face with their friends. Most teens see texting as an easier way to communicate. What they do not see is that texting is not at all helpful. Evidence is shown in Resource B where it writes, “ Fifty-four percent said they text their friends once a day, but only 33 percent say they talk to their friends face-to-face on a daily basis.” Teens are not seeing the significance in talking to their friends instead of texting. What social skills are they learning from texting? All it will do is cause teens to lose interest in communicating face-to-face with their friends. According to Resource B, “ ...the ease of electronic communication may be making teens less interested in face-to-face communication.” Teens are so attached to texting that they would not be so open to the idea of communicating the “old-fashioned” way. This is another negative impact caused by social media.

Finally, because many teens prefer to text than to meet up, this can reduce any chance of establishing a close friendship. Close friends are essential in order to gain helpful feedback or advice. This is proven in Resource B, “ The question on researchers’ minds is whether all that texting, instant messaging and online social networking allows children to become more connected and supportive of their friends. Social media is preventing teens from being connected and supportive of their friends.” This is significant because we cannot let our good friends go away since they are a great help in developing emotionally. Evidence is found in Resource B where the author states, “ These good, close relationships-we can’t allow them to wilt away. They’re essential to allowing kids to develop poise and allowing kids to play with their emotions.” Without friends, kids would not be able to explore and figure out their emotions. Of course, some may say that social media helping shy kids come out of their shell and explore

beyond themselves. However, communicating online would not help you develop social skills needed for the real world. This shows why social is not as helpful as it seems to be.

In the end, it is important to know how negatively social media is impacting today's youth. The three general reasons proving this are: obsession, lack of face-to-face communication, and reduction of childhood friendships. This generation should striving for success through technology, establishing ways to make our society more productive. Instead, social media is slowly contaminating our society.