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### Social Media Argumentative Essay

Social media in the 21st century is in our everyday lives and impacts us in many different ways and it will continue to do so. We are in the 21st century and technology has become a big part of our lives. In that technology, social media is some of the big things that all of society uses today. It is where people go online and create profiles and surf what there is to offer. Many people say that social media is harmful for the people today, but others will say it is a good thing and will help the people who use it. In many articles like, “Teenage Social Media Butterflies May Not Be Such a Bad Idea”, by Melissa Healy and “Use of social media by college students: Relationship to communication and self-concept” by Meagan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu explain the positive and negative side effects to using social media. In one article, “Antisocial Networking?” Hilary Stout claims that social media is a damage to children who use it. I disagree with Stout’s claim because of three general reasons; social media can improve social skills, helps with communication between college students, and social media can actually bring you closer to your friends and family.

First of all, social media is not a negative tool that people should stop using it in their everyday lives because it can actually improve one’s social skills. Melissa Healy explains in her article about how people are using social media more and in doing that, it is a new way of communicating and seeing that people are more social. According to Resource A, Healy states,

“Far from hampering adolescents’ social skills or putting them in harm’s way as many parents have feared, electronics appear to be the path by which kids today develop emotional bonds, their own identities, and an ability to communicate and work with others.” Using communication through social media and the conversations in between people, can make a person’s feelings grow deeper. Not only that, while they are going through, they might find other people who are feeling or in the same situation as them and they need advice and they get it through there. Which is how they are able to communicate with another person so well. In another part of her article, Melissa Healy everyday explains, “In one new study, 13-and-14-year-olds were found to interact on social network sites such as Facebook and MySpace simply in ways that were consistent with their offline relationships and patterns of behavior. And of the 86 percent of kids who used social media sites (number that reflects the national average), participants who were better adjusted in their early teens were more likely to use social media in their early 20’s, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or their parent’s income.” Considering that several people are afraid that social media is starting to consume social skills, but in reality, interacting on social media can help you get more comfortable when communicating in the future. This leads back to why Hilary Stout is wrong about claiming that social media is a damage to children.

Second of all, social media actually encourages communication skills for students in college. The two authors who wrote this article based all of it on how college students who use social media feel about themselves and their communication. According to Resource C, the authors state, “People use social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace to create and sustain relationships with other (Boyd & Ellison, 2007). These social media sites let those

who use them create personal profiles, while connecting with other users of the sites.” This means that students are building relationships with others while using social media in the process. It is helping them build it instead of breaking it down in which Stout stated otherwise. Also in that article, the authors state again, “Many of these young adults use social media networks to communicate with family, friends, and even strangers. This can also explain that college students abuse social communication in a good way to talk to their friends and family or even create an acquaintance with someone you just met. Although Hilary Stout stated, “ In general, the worries over cyberbullying and sexting have overshadowed a look into the really nuanced things about the way technology is affecting the closeness properties of friendship.” There are dangers of communication which is the harmful insults that are said upon people through social media and the inappropriate things online. But for the most part, it can build relationships that help a person when communicating, which is why social media is a positive resource.

Lastly, social media can bring people closer to friends and family that might not have been so close in the past. According to Resource C, the author states, “The mean score was 14 with a mode of 13. Results of the survey indicated the importance of social media use as a communication tool with friends and family...” The survey that they conducted in the article are all about college students and how social media is not only used for fun or when you have extra time, they are used in an educational way in school, as a tool for learning. To add on, Resource C also states, “Of the students included in the sample, 50% reported communicating with family and friends on social networking sites everyday.” This shows that half of the college students use social media to communicate which explains how it can be used to communicate and not focus

on just other people on there and the negativity the comes from other people on there. This statement reflects back to why social media can have a positive effect on people.

In the end, social media has a big impact in which a lot of us use everyday of our lives. It has become a pattern and it will continue to do so because it is such a big resource that helps us out. Social media, since it is so big, it is important because it shows that social media can actually improve and bring the world of communication together. Once again, social media shouldn't be feared; it should be embraced because it can improve social skills, help with communication between college students, and help bring you closer to friends and family.