

Giselle Millan

Period: ½

November 28, 2016

Argumentative Essay

Social media has started to take control over the world. Many people these days have some sort of social media account. While plenty of people view social media as negative, it is actually more positive than many think. To demonstrate that social media is not as bad as many think it is, the articles titled “Teenage Social Media Butterflies May Not Be Such a Bad Idea,” (A) written by Melissa Healy, “Antisocial Networking?,” (B) by Hilary Stout, “Use of social media by college students: Relationship to communication and self-concept,” (C) written by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitmu, and Teenagers on Social Media: Socialization and Self-Esteem,” (F) by Clive Anderson Jr., Eknoor Johar, Jocelyn C. Key, will prove that social media is not bad. Many people (usually grown-ups), think social media has bad effects while it really has good effects. As I believe social media has positive effects on by helping people stay connected to people they care for, to communicate better, and express themselves more.

To begin with, social media helps people keep in touch with people they know. A study done in Youngstown university show that plenty of college students use this method. As it addresses in resource C, “Results of the survey indicated the importance of social use as a communication tool with friends and family as indicated in Table 2 (Appendix).” This implies that many students social media as a communication tool rather than using it as much as other situations. Not all the students use social media on daily bases to communicate with friends and family. For instance, how in resource C it says “Of the students included in the sample, 50%

reported communicating with family and friends on social networking sites everyday.” This is evidence of how many of the students don’t use this form of social media everyday, and that if used it is used by half of the population of Youngstown university to communicate with friends and family. This is one of the many things to demonstrate how social media actually has a positive effects on the people using it.

To begin with social media helps to make stronger ties between friends. Many kids use this method as it is a quick and easy way in communicating, as they can share their thought and ideas to their friends at anytime without being face to face. For example, how in resource B Mrs. Cafferty of Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, quoted, “I actually think they’re closer because they’re more in contact with each other - anything that comes to my mind, I’m going to text you right now.” Mrs. Cafferty says this as she has a 15-year-old daughter who she estimates sends up to 150 text a day. Here, the quote that Mrs. Cafferty says signals that social media actually helps children express themselves in more than just face to face conversations, as well as they can do it at whatever time they want. Social media these days is still the same as it used to be back in the old days, just more modern. As claimed by Byrne in resource A, he says, “ ... many of the things their kids are doing are kind of like what we did.” This proves that we as a society have not changed relationships or friendships, they are still the same only more modern. In all we can all be considered to be more of the types to make friendships better with technology.

Also, no only does social media media help with improving friendships, but also helps to develop friendships. A good example of this is how a man got his his 14-year-old son to join a social media app to become a bit more social. This man, Mr. Wilson, states from resource B,

“I’m thinking Facebook has for most part been beneficial to my son.” Mr. Wilson states this because after his son, Evan, started using Facebook, he became a bit more open, which proves that social media actually helps you crawl out of the quiet zone to the socialize zone little by little. Social media also helps with children keep in touch, and example how you may meet someone you want to become closer to and social media may help out with that. An example from resource B is “I think it’s possible to say that the electronic media is helping kids to be in touch much more and for longer.” Let’s say for example that you meet someone and you want to keep in touch with the, but you only see them a couple a times, not many to socialize and get to know each other well. Well social media can help you out with that as you can now be in touch with whoever that person is, no matter where they are. As you can also keep in touch with them for much more time and for longer. Well social media has it pros, but many people will argue that it has its cons, which is true. As social media can help people out with staying in touch with people, and communication skills, it can also cause harms, a very well known example may be cyber bullying. As resource F quotes, “17% of teenagers experienced cyberbullying over the span of a lifetime.” This may happen but we can avoid it by having a good relationship with your parents, or any adult you can talk to, as stated on resource A by researcher Sahara Byrne, “ The whole thing is knowing your own child...” This means that even if there are negative effects to social media, it should not be thought as dangerous, as it can be used for positive things as well.

Therefore, this all leads in to prove that social media has mostly favorable effects, with some negative ones on the way. Most like stated before are positive, as social media help with staying in touch, help out with communicating better, and helping to make friends, in all social media will usually always be good.

