

Sebastian Lopez
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Argumentative Essay- Social Media

With the internet, specifically social media, becoming more a part of our lives, there will be changes. A way that we can change is our interpersonal communication with others. Hilary Stout makes a claim in her article, “Antisocial Networking”, that social media is negatively impacting our ability to communicate in person. Although these claims were made in 2010, this is still up for debate today. In articles such as, “Teen Social Media Butterflies”, by Melissa Healy, and surprisingly, Hilary Stout’s, “Antisocial Networking,” they give reasons as to why Stout’s claim is false. Another article, “Use of Social Media by College Students”, by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu, also explores this idea further. I personally disagree with Stout’s statement because most children today can use social media without ruining their relationships, it can create easier and faster ways of communication, and it’s a way to keep in touch with family and friends.

To commence, children can keep stable relationships and proper communication with friends because most kids can properly utilize social media. Children can use the internet and social media as a way to form new skills that will help them in the future. As Healy states in resource A, “... 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.” Children will be able to apply these skills in real life and use them as ways of keeping proper communication with friends and family. So therefore, that is a positive impact social media can have on our communication skills. Social media can be a tool for a child’s development, so learning to use it properly really impacts their communication skills. Healy quotes in her article, “ But the social

media is ultimately a tool for kids, [Subrahmanyam] says. Most kids will use it constructively.” Children are smart these days. If they say and do the correct things online, such as not using foul language or posting an inappropriate picture of their friend, they will not ruin their friendships. Applying that knowledge online can assist in preventing cyberbullying, and it will affect their communication skills either. Ultimately, there will be no negative effects from the social media.

Building on my claim, social media creates a faster and longer way to communicate with others. You can have conversations for an extended period of time, but at a much faster rate. In Stout’s, “ Antisocial Networking”, she points out, “ I think it’s possible to say that the electronic media is helping kids be in touch more and longer.” Although Stout made the claim that social media negatively affects our interpersonal communication skills, she still explains how it can be beneficial, such as this for example. These conversations we have online are good ways to form better bonds with our friends and family, and being able to do so for long time periods is even more beneficial. Also, if anything urgent were to occur, you can send a message to someone so they quickly find out the news. As elaborated in resource B, “ I actually think they’re closer because they’re more in contact with each other- anything comes to mind, I’m going to text you right away.” The new developing internet is changing the way we communicate with others. We now use social media and instant messaging to communicate faster with others. In a sense, social media contributes more of a positive change to the way we communicate.

Lastly, social media provides a way to communicate with family and friends. These can be you your 5th cousin, your mother’s late uncle, or your bestfriend, etc. The article written by Sponcil and Priscilla explains a study conducted on college students attending Youngstown State University. The study was composed of survey that contained questions about how social media

affects their communication and self concept. Data found that “ of the students included in the sample, 50% reported communicating with family and friends on social networking sites everyday (Resources C)”. As you can see, college students also use social media, not just kids. Communicating with friends and family online is a great way to keep in touch with them. Not only that, but the study found that social media has hardly any relationship with communication. Sponcil and Priscilla wrote, “ There was a .586 pearson correlation between the use of social media and perceived communication with family and friends as indicated in Table 3 (Appendix)”. These results show a less than 1 percent correlation. Social media, in the case of the college students, does not affect their communication with family whatsoever. Hilary Stout may say that kids today are less interested in face-to-face communication with their friends when she was growing up, but although this is true in some cases, it is different now. Today, children are being taught to use technology. Technology is utilized in their classrooms. The internet is apart of their lives now. Children today are growing up differently than she did. Times have changed, and Stout has not realized this.

As a conclusion, social media has a positive effect on our ability to interpersonally communicate with others. I disagree with Hilary Stout because of our ability to properly use social media, faster communication, and being able to stay in touch with friends and family. Not all of us are social media users. However, social media can help you be more confident in person. There are not many negative impacts that come from social media. The way we communicate is changing. Social media can help us adapt to these changes.