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### Social Media's Effect on Modern Society

The topic that I have chosen to research is the effect of social media in today's modern society. My argument for this essay will focus mainly on how the ever-evolving trend of social media deters humans ability to communicate in real world situations. This topic interests me because I am exposed to social media almost 24 hours of the day. Furthermore, I have first-handedly experienced the effects of social media in society. Whether it be on a date with a girl, or walking around the quad, social media's effects on modern society are abundant. Furthermore, topic is important because of how new social media is. The long term effects of social media have never been studied before, due to it not having existed 20 years ago. From this, it is crucial that research be done on this topic now rather than later. The research question I have chosen is, "How has social media affected modern society?". Prior to starting this research project, I had already a predeveloped opinion on the topic. Furthermore, prior to beginning the research process, I knew that continuous use of social media can potentially degrade social skills among young adults.

My research will be conducted mainly through online databases. The main online database I will utilize is EBSCO. I will obtain this my sources through the University of Illinois library website. Throughout the research process, I will try to obtain scholarly sources which are peer reviewed by other scholars. However, I may also utilize scholarly sources along with

non-scholarly sources which have not been reviewed previously. Furthermore, I will utilize specific library search terms such as “social media” or “social media’s effects”. On top of that, I will also look into specific forms of social media by searching terms such as “facebook” and “twitter”. Unfortunately, the research process will undoubtedly bring various challenges. Some challenges I may face are finding a scholarly counter-argument, along with interpreting certain data sets in my sources. Finding a scholarly counter-argument will be difficult because there are very few sources which argue the other side of my topic. Furthermore, in some sources, certain data tables and graphs must be closely interpreted. This will be difficult because I must closely look at the numbers in each source. To overcome the challenges I will utilize multiple databases until I find a worthy counter-argument, along with ensuring accurate data analyzation by reviewing my sources several times.

Working Thesis: Although the evolution of social media has allowed humanity to become more interconnected, It has damaged modern societies ability to communicate in real life social situations.

#### Annotated Bibliography

Aarts, S., S. T. M. Peek, and E. J. M. Wouters. "The Relation Between Social Network Site Usage And Loneliness And Mental Health In Community-Dwelling Older Adults." *International Journal Of Geriatric Psychiatry* 30.9 (2015): 942-949. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 8 Oct. 2015.

This source is a study done by the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. The authors thesis statement is that continuous use of social media can lead to mental

health issues in the future. To prove this statement, Aarts provides information on the possible long term effects of social media on one's mental health. The source also offers visuals to allow better understanding of the topic. Furthermore, It also branches out to the effects of e-mails, and text messages effect on society.

This source will be used to strengthen my argument throughout my research paper, because the source offers data which agrees with my opinion on the topic. Furthermore, It is a scholarly source, as the authors are all experts in the fields. Although the source is not peer reviewed, it is still reliable as it offers ample data on my topic. The article was published in 2015 so it is current, and is very detailed with information on my topic.

Chung, Namho, Heejeong Han, and Chulmo Koo. "Adoption Of Travel Information In User-Generated Content On Social Media: The Moderating Effect Of Social Presence." *Behaviour & Information Technology* 34.9 (2015): 902-919. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

In this article, the authors thesis states that overuse of social media effectively ruins social interactions along with people's social presence. Chung proves this by providing detailed information regarding different situations in which social media was either not used at all, or overused.

This source will be useful in my paper because it provides information on how social media can affect various social situations. I will utilize this data to strengthen my claim throughout the research paper Furthermore, the source is scholarly, and is written by three different reputable authors. The article was published in 2015, so it is very

recent. The article is also detailed, as it elaborates on all data and claims made.

Haustein, Stefanie, Rodrigo Costas, and Vincent Larivière. "Characterizing Social Media Metrics Of Scholarly Societies: The Effect Of Document Properties And Collaboration Patterns." *Plos ONE* 10.3 (2015): 1-21. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

In this article, Haustein's thesis states that the use of social media within college campuses promotes social interaction. In order to prove this, Haustein provides survey data along with explanations behind each data set. Furthermore, the author offers commentary as to why or how each data set is significant.

This source is scholarly and is written by three different authors. Furthermore, because of these authors credentials, it is easy to determine that the source is reputable. However, the source is not peer reviewed in any way. This source will be useful to me because it offers a scholarly counter-argument for my thesis. The source was published in 2015 so it is current, and the source offer ample detail on the topic.

Levinson, Paul. *Cellphone*. REV ed. April: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Print.

This source is the book that I have chosen for my research. The book's thesis is that the invention of the cell phone completely revolutionized and changed how society works. In order to prove his thesis, Levinson discusses and analyzes several real world scenarios in which the cell phone's creation effectively changed something or someone.

This is a scholarly source, written by the renowned american writer and professor Paul Levinson. From this, I can assume that the book is both reputable and accurate. Furthermore, the source will be useful for providing examples of how the introduction of social media affected various aspects of society. This book will also provide me examples

of how texting and other forms of new-age communication have changed society.

However, since the book was published in 2004, it is not recent. However, it is extremely detailed and informative. Lastly, I am unsure if the book has been peer-reviewed, as the only reviews which I could find were online reviews open to anyone and everyone.

Livingston, James, et al. "Another Time Point, A Different Story: One Year Effects Of A Social Media Intervention On The Attitudes Of Young People Towards Mental Health Issues." *Social Psychiatry & Psychiatric Epidemiology* 49.6 (2014): 985-990. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 9 Oct. 2015.

This source is another study. However, it is conducted by a single person rather than an organization. Livingston's thesis states that children communicate and interact with others better when removed from social media. Livingston proves this by offering information and statistics regarding the effects of social media.

The source is also a scholarly source. The author is an expert in sociology and psychiatry so it is reliable. I will utilize the data collected from the study, as it shows the effects of a social media intervention over the time span of a year. The source is not peer reviewed, however the data and the analyzed information is crucial for my essay. The study was conducted in 2014, so it is recent, and the source offers data tables and detailed explanations.

Nitzburg, George C., and Barry A. Farber. "Putting Up Emotional (Facebook) Walls? Attachment Status And Emerging Adults' Experiences Of Social Networking Sites." *Journal Of Clinical Psychology* 69.11 (2013): 1183-1190. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

The thesis in this Nitzburg article states how continuous use of facebook can deter young adults' ability to connect on an emotional level. The author proves this by providing data and explanations as to how the use of facebook affects the human brain.

This source will be useful in my paper because it will allow me to further support my claim. The data provided shows how continuous use of social media affects how individuals act in society. This article is written by three different reputable authors, and the source is scholarly without peer review. The source was published in 2013, so it is not as recent as the other sources. However, the source does provide pages of detailed explanation and argument which will be useful in my paper.

Osatuyi, Babajide. "Is Lurking An Anxiety-Masking Strategy On Social Media Sites? The Effects Of Lurking And Computer Anxiety On Explaining Information Privacy Concern On Social Media Platforms." *Computers In Human Behavior*49.(2015): 324-332. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

In this source, Osatuyi's thesis is that continuous use of social media can worsen social anxiety in people who are affected by it. Osatuyi proves this by providing data obtained from a recent study which shows how continuous use and lurking on social media sites affect anxiety levels.

The source will be a good addition to my paper because it further allows me to strengthen my argument by showing that continuous use of social media raises anxiety levels. The article is not a scholarly source, and it is not peer reviewed. However, the source is extremely recent, being only published this year. The source goes well into detail by conveying the thoughts and reasonings behind the study, as well as explaining

the data.

STEINER, THOMAS, et al. "Clustering Media Items Stemming From Multiple Social Networks." *Computer Journal* 58.9 (2015): 1861-1875. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

In this article, Steiners' thesis states all social media affects humans' in a psychological way. In order to prove this, Steiner provides survey data along with interpretations of this data. Furthermore, the author offers insight as to why or how each data set is important.

This source will be used to strengthen my argument, because the source offers data and explanations which support with my thesis. Furthermore, It is a scholarly source, as the authors are all experts in the fields. Although the source is not peer reviewed, it is still reliable as it offers ample data on my topic. The article was published in 2015 so it is current, and is very detailed with information on my topic.

Vogel, Erin A., et al. "Who Compares And Despairs? The Effect Of Social Comparison Orientation On Social Media Use And Its Outcomes." *Personality & Individual Differences* 86.(2015): 249-256. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

The author's thesis in this source states that social media overuse can affect mental health. Vogel proves this by providing readers with studies conducted by other reputable authors and researchers. The article also discusses the effects of social media on children, which is also useful.

The source is also a scholarly source. The author is an expert in sociology so it is reliable. I will utilize the data collected from the various study, as it shows how social

media can alter one's mental health. The source is not peer reviewed, however the data and various studies would greatly improve my paper. The study was conducted in 2014, so it is recent, and the source offers numerous studies and detailed explanations.

Yi, Han, Fang Binxing, and Jia Yan. "Predicting The Topic Influence Trends In Social Media With Multiple Models." *Neurocomputing* 144.(2014): 463-470. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 12 Oct. 2015.

This source's thesis states that the use of social media can be addicting to the average person in today's society. Yi proves his statement through detailed explanations and situational analysis of various situations. Furthermore, Yi provides reasoning behind his explanations which helps readers to understand the source thoroughly.

The source will be another good addition to my paper because it further allows me to strengthen my argument by showing that continuous use of social media can be addicting. The article is a scholarly source, and it is not peer reviewed. The source was published in 2014 so it is fairly recent. The source goes into sufficient detail by conveying the thoughts and reasonings behind the study, as well as explaining the data.

Yust, Karen-Marie. "Digital Power: Exploring The Effects Of Social Media On Children'S Spirituality." *International Journal Of Children's Spirituality* 19.2 (2014): 133-143. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 9 Oct. 2015.

Yust's thesis in this article discusses how the overuse use of social media ruins the spirituality in children. Yust proves his thesis by discussing how children who use



social media differ from children who don't use social media in terms of improved social reasoning and spiritual connections.

This source is a scholarly source. Furthermore, it is peer reviewed in a positive light. This is important because it ensures that the source is reputable. The Yust article will be useful to integrate into my research paper because it will allow me to strengthen my argument by utilizing the data regarding non-social media children and social media children. Furthermore, the journal was published in 2014, so it is fairly recent. However, this source only provides limited explanations, so it's less detailed than the other sources.