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Final Draft- Argumentative Essay #1

There are 1.96 billion users of social media and many of those users are kids. There are several articles that cover this topic, including “Antisocial Networking” by Hilary Stout, “Is Social Media Driving People Away From Real Interaction?” by Righ Knight, and “Teenagers on Social Media: Socialization and Self-Esteem” by Clive Anderson Jr., Eknoor Johar, and Jocelyn C. Key. Social media users come from all over the world. Many of them use it for communication. Due to the amount of kids who use social media, there are many concerns being raised. One concern by Stout is that she formed strong relationships and expressed emotions when she was a child better than kids do now because they are always using technology to communicate, instead of communicating in person. I fully agree with her analysis and conclusion due to the fact that social media is making communication outside technology worse, it is making it difficult to socialize in real life, and it is one of the causes of cyberbullying.

First of all, a reason I agree with Stout is that social media is making communication outside of technolgy, worse. Most kids seem to rather use technology to communicate than talk to them face-to-face. The article that proves validates my point is Resource B. The text explains, “Initial qualitative evidence is that the ease of electronic communication may be making teens

less interested in face-to-face communication with their friends.” Social media is making real life communication among teens less popular, so without this type of communication there is “slice of the pie missing”. Another article that gives light on my thought is Resource B. The author states, “For today's teenagers and preteens, the give and take of friendship seems to be conducted increasingly in the abbreviated snatches of cell phone texts, instant messages, and or through the very public forum of Facebook walls and MySpace bulletins.” Using social media does not give you the feeling of a real conversation. When the majority of teens and preteens communicate through social media they do not seem to notice that communication should be between two people and there should be thoughtful conversations occurring. Social media is causing people to not comply to those rules of communicating. I agree with Stout’s argument because social media is making communication outside of technology, a rare sight to see among teenagers these days.

The second reason why I agree with Stout is because social media is making it difficult to socialize in real life. Kids use social media so much that it becomes difficult for them to simply start a conversation between another person. The article that proves my claim is Resource D. The text states, “It seems that not only are we using these devices to hide from social gatherings, but the use of social media on lone basis find it increasingly difficult to not only socialize in situations where it is called for, but they are generally more depressed and anxious in actual social situations.” Many people are being negatively affected by social media that they don’t necessarily know how to communicate. Everyone should know how to communicate in real life situations because face-to-face communication is an essential need in life. Another article that confirms my key point is Resource D. The article tells us, “Or how many times have you been in a social gathering and 80% or more of those in the room have their heads down at their cell

phones, tablets or other mobile devices.” This is an example of real life social gathering that has true situations occurring. The happenings that arise display the disengagement between humans through face-to-face conversations. I agree with Stout’s argument because social media is making face-to-face conversations endangered.

The third reason why I agree with Stout is because social media causes cyberbullying. Social media causes a chain reaction between cyberbullying, which causes others to be hurt emotionally and it causes others to eventually hurt themselves physically. The article that shines light on my point is Resource F. The author states, “The use of social media leads to cyberbullying, which leads to depression, thoughts of suicide, and sadness.” Social media fuels communication among others and the comments the users leave are negatively impacting others. Another article that justifies my conclusion is Resource F. The text explains, “This is due to the ability to speak without visual confirmation, thus giving an individual the ability to cause remorse and therefore contradicting the age-old phrase, ‘stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.’” Without sight, users of social media won’t see how their comments negatively affected others. When those users consistently harass other users with negative comments, the situation becomes cyberbullying. I agree with Stout’s argument because social media is the main cause of cyber bullying and cyberbullying can lead to death and other hurtful actions.

In conclusion, I fully agree with Stout’s analysis and conclusion due to that fact that social media is making communication outside of technology, worse, it is making it difficult to socialize in real life, and it is causing cyber bullying. The main idea is that Stout formed strong relationships . It is important for people to agree with Stout’s argument because social media and

technology are taking over communication in the world and people need to know the negative effects that come from solely relying on them.