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Social Media and It's Influences

Technology has thrived and evolved throughout modernization, providing civilization with expansive boundaries on the networking experience. Construed by this electronic growth, social media formed into a major icon and influencer in today's society. According to Michael Dewing, a worker and analyst within Canada's Library of Parliament, "By the late 2000s, social media had gained widespread acceptance and some services gained huge numbers of users. For example, in November 2012, Facebook announced it had 1 billion users worldwide, of whom 18 million were in Canada. In July 2012, Twitter had an estimated 517 million users, of whom 10 million were in Canada" (2). Sites such as Facebook and Twitter can be compared to the cosmic event, the Big Bang; all started acutely, then exploded into an overwhelming mass of detail. Generally, the internet formed into a cohesive, webbed community that promoted connection, discussion, and most importantly, inspiration. Born in 2001, I myself, at a pivotal age, became immersed in the public's new form of communication, and like most adolescents who eagerly received their first mobile device, merged into a zesty sphere. The voguish indulgence inaugurated a unique norm, a permanent integration on what it meant to be normal. Simply, I wanted to 'fit in,' to firmly grasp the deep fascination and pleasure that others were obtaining. It became a cultural change that captured my interest and curiosity; a technological revolution that, without any form of difficulty, lured me in. Currently, I still heed forward, choosing to remain on the vast, expansive road of social networking. Significantly, this decision has allowed me to comprehend both the negative and positive influences that social media presently imposes.

True addiction is considered to be harmful and impractical to the quality of life. It can be viewed as a main contributor towards one's downfall, an intrusive void. Howard J. Shaffer, writer for Harvard Health Publishing, defines it as, "a relationship between a person and an object or activity. With addiction, the object or activity becomes increasingly more important while previously important activities become less important. Ultimately, addiction is about the complex struggle between acting on impulse and resisting that impulse" (Shaffer). Once the object of desire becomes far too prevalent, serving as a blockage in more constructive pursuits, the individual may feel enslaved and compelled to act upon their overwhelming impulses. Currently, I battle with a similar addictive force, which originated from the vast influences social media thrusts. It's become too dominant; a hindrance that encourages procrastination and unsuitable time management. Although networking can be seen as wondrous, the activity manages to clasp my awareness of reality, diverting necessary attention from other healthy and valuable hobbies. I have become immersed in surveying, admiring, and connecting with the lives of others rather than fully living my own. Social media therefore is influential to a high degree, but in this case, has proven to be an unwholesome occurrence. Though, through self-perseverance, I have managed to accept this addiction rather than completely abolishing it. One of the benefits of technology includes the ability to shut it off. Applications like "Screen Time," or "Airplane Mode " allow me to dramatically limit any online engagement, creating a more efficient schedule that involves quality time with family, school, reading, and writing. The addiction still hovers above, but with strict deadlines, it's limitations have increased sufficiently. Using addictiveness as a persuasive tool, the electronic stem manages to impact me greatly, nevertheless, the problematic guidance branches out further.

Social media is widely revered for its endless informational horizon. Many seekers, including myself, utilize social platforming as a method of obtaining any specific knowledge. However, while various online sources may seem enlightening, there is the possibility that certain specifics may be entirely false, which would ultimately lead readers into a misdirection. For many, accepting the 'words' of others may be instinctual, thus, it's crucial for the audience to remain proactive, and to not fall victim to an erroneous sense of trust. Authors and analysts of "Big Data in Complex and Social Networks" explain, "Given the speed of information diffusion on social networks coupled with the widespread propagation of fake news [55], phishing URLs [24], and inaccurate information [37], misinformation escalates and can significantly impact users with undesirable consequences" (128). Those who take all forms of notion for granted, without pursuing necessary research, will be pulled into a domain of falsehood. Unfortunately, I have, unknowingly, traversed into this domain. In the past, I've experienced numerous occurrences where particular findings, gathered from social networks, have been utilized in school papers, or even, to carry a conversation. I quickly learned, due to the corrections of others, that it is improper to engage intellectually with unreliable advice. In allowing myself to be completely open to all published data, I embodied a lie; following these lies caused my own rhetoric to be, in the end, meaningless and uninfluential. Misconception is a danger that everyone will encounter, one that I still have to keep a careful eye on. At this present moment, I constantly catch myself being persuaded by bloggers, without fully understanding any statistical background, because of their unique ability to gather attention. Fortunately, through my pursuit of a higher education, teachers have made it their mission to enforce a code of restraint. By proposing credible sources, such as Google Scholar or various profound libraries, students like myself can innovate new ideas while remaining astray from certain detrimental fallacies. All in

all, social media establishes propounding effects; one's that tend to be a prominent issue towards certain lifely endeavors of mine. But if I ended here, I would be dismissing a fact: aside from the networking deterrents, substantial positives dither.

Online socialization plays a vital role in allowing users to easily connect with friends and family, to participate in any communal discussion. Internet usage, in terms of communication, managed to become so prevalent that it has evolved into a societal norm. Therefore, in order to establish and maintain relationships, connecting with others through this social interaction proves to be highly methodical and reliable. Astonishingly, networking changed public interactions into a whole new plainfield; I've found that when meeting someone for the first time, if we desire a formed friendship, then there will be an informational exchange, not of numbers or emails, but of a media account; this is how we will reach out to one another in the near future. As of this moment, friends of mine, including myself, exploit these accounts as a way of connecting with one another; facetime sessions are established for "game nights," or chat rooms are created for interactive discussions. Association, however, does not solely involve a reciprocation of words; pictures and videos have become more practical in imparting messages. By viewing a visual posting of a friend's hiking expedition, or a renowned restaurant a family member dined at, etc. I am aware, not just of their ventures, but of their well-being. Even though there are circumstances where I prefer to converse in a more personal manner, the media remains as a fundamental tool regarding daily correspondence. Strikingly, foruming manages to broaden the scope of conveyance, promoting users to expand their personality towards a greater audience.

Social media is more than a close tie of friends and relatives. I have found it extremely useful in reaching out to academic mentors in order to seek literary guidance. Author of "Youth, Learning, And Social Media," Christine Greenhow notes that social media conserves a pivotal

function in that it permits learners "to personalize and extend learning experiences, such as connecting students with others who share their academic and career interests ... that can help students' educational attainment, persistence, and achievement in schools" (140). Seeking advisors who are both professional and influential is my primary usage of the collective online community. Currently, I am pursuing to become a fictional novelist, which opens a world of wonder and curiosity. For my writing to grow creatively and punctually, I need advice from others who grasped onto solutions from various difficulties; I need to understand their viewpoints, chief lessons, and past struggles. It is a goal of mine to use various enlightenments to tell my own story, one that has been buried deep in the subconscious, waiting to come to life in front of passionate readers. Instructors, and widely known writers, Jerry B. Jenkins and Brandon Sanderson have published content on Youtube that aim to educate others on the process of fictional writing, such as Jenkin's "How to Write Compelling Dialogue: A Proven Process," Sanderson's "Tips and Tricks for Getting Past Writer's Block" or one of my favorites, "Worldbuilding in Creative Writing." Podcasts such as these have advanced my own penmanship, and even leave me with a sensation of preparedness for my college venture.

Online networking has advanced both positive and negative weighty influences, those that continue to dwell in my present life. I face addiction and the constant misdirection derived from misinformation, but I also am gifted the ability to communicate with loved ones to a greater degree, to lengthen relations, and to strengthen my own writing through the teachings of others. In my view, the impacts lean, in greater extent, towards a sense of favorability; I would rather find and employ ample methods of avoiding the drawbacks, rather than abandoning everything completely. Virtual hardware will keep heading onward, reforming into something new along the

way. It is imperative that we cope with the latest changes, so that all may use all influences to our

advantage.

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