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Socialization

Social media has the ability to affect us in many ways. It can make us feel emotions, meet new people, and interact with others. In the article “Antisocial Networking” by Hilary Stout, she states social Media has a mostly negative effects on us. However, there are many different ways it can affect us positively, as it lets us connect with peers, express ourselves, and communicate with others.

To begin, social media can allow people to express themselves more online. In this day and age, a lot people struggle to interact with others, but social media can improve on this aspect. As stated by Melissa in Article A, “The digital world is creating new opportunities for the youth to grapple social norms, explore interests, and experiment with new forms of self expression (P.2).” Before the widespread creation of the internet, the only *real* way to make friends was to go up to them, and interact. For some shy kids, this could be difficult. But now, you're just a mere finger tap away to meeting someone new. Due to this ease of access to new people, it allows us to be more expressive and meet new people. As also stated in Article A, “In one new study, 13- and 14-year-olds were found to interact on social network sites such as Facebook and MySpace simply in ways that were consistent with their offline relationships and patterns of behavior (P.1).” Due to being able to access so many people, it makes sense that people act the same way they do offline. They want people to be aware of their thoughts and actions, so they

express themselves online; they open up and share their feelings. This is much harder to do in real life, as you are limited by distances, transportation, etc. In all, it makes it easier to express ourselves without all the hassle.

Secondly, social networking sites allow us to connect with our peers with more ease. Due to many restrictions, we are separated from our friends. Social media, however, doesn't have this restriction. It allows us to connect with friends and acquaintances whenever we feel the need to. As Stout claims in Article B, "...Online social networking allows children to become more connected and supportive of their friends (P. 2)." There are plenty of different ways that communication is enhanced by social networking. Not only does it allow us to access each other 24/7, but it also removes practically any barriers to interact with each other. There's no distance issue, no communication issue, and no time issue. This allows us to spread information easily too, as Hanna from Article B states, "[I] rely on social media to make plans and to pass on things I find interesting... (P.5)." Due to this unlimited ability to access others, she finds the need to keep and touch and spread photos and posts. It allows her to keep in touch and not get disconnected. Not only does it help her communicate with others, but it also helps her keep a constant interaction with others.

To continue, social media allows us to communicate with others and meet new people. In the 'pre-social-media' period of the early 2000s, gaining valuable feedback or communicating with others was basically restricted to a single forum or a chat room with good friends; nobody else to talk to. However, *now* we are able to publish stories, opinions, and videos for the entire world to see. As stated by Priscilla and Megan, "Social media networks offer a straightforward way to converse with peers and get peer feedback, [As well as] influence a young adult's

self-esteem (P.2).” While the olden’ way of conversing with peers was a simple, one-to-one person format, now you can talk to multiple people and gain information, share ideas, and much more. You're able to gain criticisms and improve yourself and your work, as well as just have fun messages friends. Another example found in Article B is, “The impersonal nature of texting [may] make it easier for shy kids to connect with others. (P.5).” Texting and other messaging applications allows kids like these to open up and allow themselves to be able to reach out to others with ease, as well as make new friends. However, some may argue that letting teenagers run wild in this ‘country without rule’ of an internet could end up getting harassed and even cyberbullied. This, again, can be stopped. Most social media sites are taking many preventive measures to be able to block and ignore these people, This ultimately leads to a better experience for all users.

To conclude, Social networking sites have many different means of helping us communicate. It lets us express ourselves, communicate with others, and connect with peers. This in turn lets us open up towards new people and communicate more effectively, as it also lets us be free with our thoughts. It also makes it easier for communication barriers to be removed. Overall, social media helps us become more social in more ways than one.