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Final Draft- Social Media Argumentative Essay

My cousin has once been a victim of cyberbullying online, now he is even too afraid to even turn on his cellphone. It is said that social media has made a huge impact on people now a days. Researchers decided to survey and question people who use social media. In articles B by New York Times, D by Righ Knight, and F by Clive Anderson Jr, Eknoor Johar, Jocelyn C Key, the authors describe that they found most people who use social media have negative and positive effects on them. However, what I find more interesting, is that the authors describe more negative effects than positive. This can be proven with three general reasons that are lowering self-esteems, changing the way people think, and even causing cyberbullying. Due to these negative effects, people have negatively changed due to social media.

Initially, the first way social media is negatively changing people is by lowering self-esteem. Many teens seem to have their self-esteemed lowed because they do not like the way they are and like how others look on social media. As Resource B states, "Electronic communication may be making teens less interested in face-to-face communications with their friends. " This explains how teens do not talk face-to-face as much anymore, because social media has impacted them to think that interaction is not as good as helping them express themselves as much as on media. For instance, if you are made fun of online for something you said or did, you would be afraid of being treated the same way in real life. Your self-esteem starts to lower. Another piece of evidence can be found on Resource D. It states,

“Over 50% of social media users evaluated their participation in social networking as having an overall negative effect on their lives. ” It clearly states that social networking in general affects our lives in a negative way. And one of those ways is by lowering our self-esteems. When we see a picture online of someone who we think is better looking and more outgoing, we think of ourselves less than them. We change the way we look at ourselves, the way we think. Our self-esteem starts to lower even more and more every time we use social media.

Moreover, another way social media is negatively impacting the people of today is by changing the way they think. Righ Knight mentions that teens rather communicate through social media instead of face-to-face. An example of this is, “It seems that not only are we using these devices to hide from social gathering, but the use of social media on a lone basis”(Article D). It explains how social media can damage how people now think in religion by making them not want to go to gatherings because they rather be on/use social media. Another example of this would be, “...has shown that the more someone uses Facebook, the less satisfied he is with life”(Article D). Meaning that the more and more you use social media, the more and more you change the way you think. Such as, being less satisfied with life and with others. Personally, I have been in the position where I think one way, then when I see something online, I start to think another way. It all depends on how you use social media. It is like watching something you have never seen before, then end up liking it and getting more interested in it.

Furthermore, the last reason why social media is leading people in a negative way is by causing cyberbullying. Kids who are online can get negative threat or mean comments. In Article F it states, “The use of social media leads to cyberbullying, which leads to depression, thoughts of suicide, and sadness. ” This explains how cyberbullying is very effective. It leads to a lot of sad and depressing thoughts. Social media can be a way that bullies can communicate with their victims and not get caught.

Even having the thought that is a bad use for social media, they still use it. Another example can be found on Article F, "Leads to suicide, which is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24" Not only does cyberbullying give them negative thoughts, but those thoughts get more aggressive like suicide and death. There are many negative effects that social media cause but it may also have positive effects such as, "Giving freedom to express ourselves"(Article F). But what is shocking is that the negatives still outweigh the positive effects. In Article F it mentions, "19% of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 had experienced cyber bullying either as a victim or offender. " I know you might be thinking, "Oh it's ok, 19% is not that much" But if you think about it another way, 19% is still a good amount to be worried about. There should not be anytime of bullying, harassment, or thoughts of suicide happening online where most people are not really aware of.

Ultimately, the negative effects that are being caused through social media is lowering self-esteem, changing the way people think, and leading to the cause of cyberbullying. Social media lowers self-esteem by making others feel less of themselves, changes the way people think by making them change their mind on something they thought, and lastly causing cyberbullying which some bullies can not be found or caught.