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Argumentative Essay

Imagine living in a time where technology starts going into style. Once there were children on swings bursting in laughter, girls gossiping down the stairs, guys playing soccer in the damp field, hearing the cry of, “Goal”, every time one scored until things started going the opposite direction due to technology use. There are no longer sounds of laughter, but buzzings sounds from incoming messages coming from cellular and electronic devices. In the articles Antisocial Networking by Hilary Stout, Teenagers on Social Media: Socializing and Self-Esteem by Clive Anderson Jr., and Let's Get Social by Scott Jacobs, there are multiple ways that technology and media negatively affect children and teens over time. Children have decided to take the side of technology such as social media rather than communicate in the real world on a face-to-face level. The reasons that social media has affected society and children negatively is because media has threats, it negatively replaces real life activities, and it is time consuming. Negative effects may include bullying, mental stability, and other items that may negatively affect one's self-esteem.

To commence, media has threats. Over the past years, a worldwide threat called “cyberbullying” has roamed the internet, its main target being social media websites and apps. This is one of the biggest issues we have online. This cyberbullying issue can lead to problems such as sadness and depression. Many people have either supported or gone against cyberbullying over time. This can be found on a research done by Clive Anderson in which says, “19% of youth between ages of 10 and 17 had experienced cyberbullying either as a victim or offender.” In other words about 19% of people online had witnessed cyberbullying one way or another. This can lead to sadness or depression. 19% is a lot of people on social networks which means more hundreds of thousands of people have witnessed cyberbullying. Another negative effect that can add to the effects of social media are suicidal thoughts. Suicidal thoughts are caused by depression and other problems that may be too difficult to think about. Suicidal thoughts are thoughts where you feel like you have no other exit to your problems but suicide itself. A quote that can support this idea that social media may lead to suicidal thoughts can be found in a research done by Clive Anderson Jr. which states, “The use of social media leads to cyberbullying, which leads to depression, thoughts of suicide, and sadness.” This means that there is clear evidence that cyberbullying is an online threat to society. These suicidal thoughts can accumulate and actually cause suicide if it is too difficult to handle. Online threats are one of the main reasons that social media has negative effects on children and society.

To continue, social media negatively replaces real life activities such as face-to-face conversations and other real world situations. Over time, technology has affected groups of people such as children. These children have change gravely from times that technology and

social media was not around. Activities such as face-to-face conversations have become less used due to technology use.

In an article titled “Antisocial Networking”, by Hilary Stout says, “Initial qualitative evidence is that the ease of electronic communication may be making teens less interested in face-to-face communication with their friends.”. This means that technology may affect the way that teens may change their way of communication because of social media. This may be affected on how most people communicate with one another in modern era. Social media and technology has also taken a role in the lives of younger children such as minors. Technology has become an obsession to many. This can be found in the same article by Hilary Stout which states, “With children’s technical obsessions starting at ever-younger ages — even kindergartners will play side by side on laptops during playdates — their brains may eventually be rewired and those skills will fade further, some researchers believe.” Smaller children have made technology an obsession which has greatly changed traditions over the years such as playdates with toys and non-technological uses. Addiction is another negativity that social media causes due to the fact that it is time consuming and non efficient. These changes are not positive because they changed the ways of communication between people and their peers. This connects to the negative ways that social media affects children because it shows how people's communication among one another gets worse.

From here on, technology has become an addiction. Over time technology has taken over people's minds and thoughts. To prove this, according to an infographic by Scott Jacobs, “3 quarters spend more than two hours per day on social media almost half are on four.” In other words people have become addicted to media which affects lives in many ways. This time could be used for something more efficient but instead is used on hours of technology. Social media is taking over the world and can be used both positive and negative ways but can affect lives. This can be found on the same infographic by Scott Jacobs which shows that, “Facebook has 1.55 billion active users.” This means that a lot of people over the world are going social. This is negative because technology has cyberbullying and can take over your life if not used wisely. There are many ways that social media is negative and time consumption is one of the biggest issues that media has. Instead of exercising for example, people are slowly dying due to inactivity. Although there are many reasons to support media's negativity, social media is also positive. According to the infographic by Scott Jacobs, “Other social networks like Tumblr or Twitter are being used rapidly for communication which are termed as micro blogging sites.” Social media is a worldwide used tool to help communicate around the world and be used in business cases.

Media can be used positively but there is too much negativity such as addiction which can become a problem.

Social media has negatively affected modern society and has affected society ever since existence. There are many reasons that support social media's negativity. The reasons that social media has affected society and children negatively is because media has threats, it negatively

replaces real life activities, and it is time consuming. Many people rather be on their cell phones poking at their screens rather than using their time wisely and doing something efficient. Other than that, people's face-to-face conversations are decreasing less and less each time that social media is used more and more. Each day social media is growing but all that there is to do is to be part of the positive side and help decrease cyberbullying, technological addiction, and to use time wisely to prevent addiction.