

## Social Media

Social Media apps and websites are online platforms where communication is enhanced and optimized. In three articles called, “Teenage Social Media Butterflies May Not be Such a Bad Idea” written by Melissa Healy, “Antisocial Networking” by Hilary Stout, and “Use of Social Media by college students: Relationship to communication and self concept” written by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu, the authors argue how communication is affected by social media in different ways. Social media has a positive impact on people’s lives by helping adolescents develop true identities, helping the shy communicate confidently, and helping friends and family keep in touch.

To begin with, Social media helps adolescents develop their own identities. They are at the time where they may want to learn more about themselves and who they truly are. These young adults rely on one another to uphold their identities. According to resource C, the authors explain how “social media allows an outlet for identity exploration to occur through peer feedback and strengthening of relationships.” The authors wrote this to explain to its reader that social media communication helps people explore who they truly are. This is significant because people are using social media as a resource. These platforms are also helpful because they help adolescents to be themselves and not someone else. The author of resource A wrote, “the digital world is simply a new... place to conduct age-old work of adolescence forming identities separate from those of parents.” The author explains how young adults get to be themselves and not a portrait of their parents. This is very important to know because many people grow up with

their parents perspectives on the world. Social media helps them explore and develop their own points of view of the world. Therefore, social media is a great place to find one's identity.

In addition, shy kids can communicate more through social media. There are many kids that hardly talk and have no friends because they do not know how to communicate. Texting through social media helps these shy kids communicate better and actually interact with other kids face to face. On resource B, Melissa Healy states, "Some researchers believe that the impersonal nature of texting and online communication make it easier for shy kids to connect with others." This statement that Melissa wrote implies that researchers agree that social media does not affect shy kids communication but rather helps them with it. Throughout all the social media platforms, kids are learning how make friendships. Some parents actually persuade their kids to get on social media to make friends. On document B, Hilary Stout states, "... the number 1 reason, it's helping him come out of his shell and develop social media skills that he wasn't learning because he's so shy. I couldn't just push him out of the house and say find someone." This parent wants his kid to use social media as a tool to help him build more relationships. Social media helps the shy to interact with others and not the opposite.

Moreover, social media does not only help people find their own identities or help shy ones communicate but it also helps people stay in touch with friends and family. Sometimes many people get on social media to just talk to family or friends they haven't seen in awhile. On document C, the authors wrote "The most important reason given was to communicate with family and friends." Out of the study researchers found that keeping in touch with friends and family is the number one reason many people get on these platforms. Students may live far

studying for their proficiency and do not have time to visit their loved ones. Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu wrote on document C, “ ... many people having busy lives or having friends and family that live far away, these sites have helped to maintain contact with those individuals that students rarely saw.” These authors want their readers to understand how these sites are useful. Though there are people who say that social media makes adults and adolescents addicted or rather texting online and not in person. On document B, the author states, “ ... but only 33% said they talk to their friends face to face on a daily basis.” On the survey that was taken by some people more than half do not talk to their friends or family, instead they rather text. This is important because many people are not interacting as they should be. Although many may rather text online because their relatives or friends live far or have busy lives. Either way social media helps family and friends stay in touch no matter wherever they are at.

To conclude, social media is a valuable tool that everyone uses on a daily basis. It has a positive impact on people’s lives by helping adolescents develop true identities, helping the shy communicate confidently, and helping friends and family keep in touch. The most significant part about social media is that you can use it however you want. It is very useful in today’s society and as it grows, more people will be able to do many more things that will help shape today’s world. Though there are some negative impacts that may occur to people that use social media, but for the most it is, once again, a precious and valuable tool.