

People are Drowning in Social Media

A. Gautam

1. Everyone in the world would agree that today's youth and adults are constantly using social media on their smartphone. In fact, 75% of millennials (people born between 1980-1996) also use social media weekly while 55% use more than one platform many times a day. Surprisingly, there are many older adults ages 45-54 with at least one social profile and vigorous use of social media. This has brought upon many changes in the way our society communicates, and frankly, it is alarming.
2. According to Future of Work Media, although 75% of people express a desire to spend more time with the family, their reality shows they have personal interaction through social media. Social media is quick and easy to access. Instant interaction motivates people to stay in touch this way. In fact, adults spend at least 20 hours a week online on social platforms. Only a small percent of these interactions is also with the same people in real life. In other words, you may visit your grandmother once a month but text her weekly. While it may feel like being in touch more, it is in fact a less meaningful interaction.
3. Because one can form a social relationship via a smartphone with just anyone, people's attention is divided, and the exchanges aren't really meaningful. There is a lack of depth that only personal interactions can provide. The effect of tone and intended emotion is lost when the person you are communicating with is only using gifs, memes, or characters.
4. People are used to picking up the smartphones for many reasons and any time they have a free moment, like waiting for food, or being a passenger in a car. Even when people are together, their eyes are downcast and focused on the smartphone instead of the person they are with. Because smartphones are the most stimulating toys with endless possibilities, a simple conversation with a real person can be seen as boring and something to be avoided.
5. Do not replace personal interaction with your loved ones with social media exchange or texts for a meaningful communication and relationship.

Argumentative Essay: Is Social Media Hurting Meaningful Relationships?

Read the article “**People are Drowning in Social Media.**”

The author argues that social media is replacing meaningful, in-person relationships and weakening communication.

Your Task

Write a well-organized argumentative essay answering the question:

Do you agree or disagree that social media is hurting meaningful personal relationships?

In your essay, be sure to:

- Clearly state your claim (agree or disagree)
- Organize your ideas into clear paragraphs
- Use specific evidence from the article
- Explain how your evidence supports your claim
- Address at least one counterargument
- Use correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization

Take time to:

- Review the article
 - Plan your response
 - Write your draft
 - Revise and edit carefully
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Essay Planning Organizer

Symbol	Word	Student-Friendly Meaning	What It Does in Your Essay	Sentence Starters
	CLAIM	What you believe about the topic	States your opinion clearly	I believe that...In my opinion...I agree/disagree because...
	REASON	Why you believe your claim	Explains your thinking	One reason is...Another reason is...This is important because...
	EVIDENCE	Proof from the article	Supports your reason with facts or quotes	According to the article...The author states...For example...
	EXPLANATION	Why your evidence matters	Connects your evidence to your claim	This shows that...This proves that...This supports my claim because...
	COUNTER ARGUMENT	The opposite opinion	Shows you understand another side	Some people argue...Others believe...While it is true that...
	REBUTTAL	Your response to the other side	Explains why your side is stronger	However...This argument is weak because...In reality...

Paragraph	What to Include	Guiding Questions
Introduction	Hook + Background + Clear Claim	How can you introduce the topic? Do you agree or disagree with the author?
Body Paragraph 1	Reason #1 + Evidence from article + Explanation	What is your strongest reason? What quote or fact from the article supports it?
Body Paragraph 2	Reason #2 + Evidence + Explanation	What is another strong point? How does it support your claim?
Body Paragraph 3	Counterargument + Rebuttal	What might someone who disagrees with you say? Why is your position stronger?

Symbol	Word	Student-Friendly Meaning	What It Does in Your Essay	Sentence Starters
Conclusion	Restate claim + Final thought	Why does this issue matter today?		

Is Social Media Hurting Meaningful Relationships?

Directions

Read the article “People are Drowning in Social Media.”

Then write a well-organized argumentative essay answering this question:

Do you agree or disagree that social media is hurting meaningful personal relationships?

Requirements

Your essay must:

- Clearly state your claim
 - Use evidence from the article
 - Explain how your evidence supports your ideas
 - Include at least one counterargument
 - Be organized into paragraphs
 - Use correct grammar and spelling
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Essay Planner

My Claim (circle one):

Agree / Disagree

Reason #1:

Evidence from the Article:

Explanation:

Reason #2:

Evidence from the Article:

Explanation:

Counterargument:

My Response to the Counterargument:

Final Reminder

- Reread the article.
- Check your organization.
- Make sure you explained your evidence.
- Revise and edit before submitting.

