

Make sure the parts work together

First draft paragraph:

Topic sentence?
Too broad!

Social media is unfortunately here to stay. Tons of kids use social media. Checking in to social media sites becomes a daily, even hourly necessity, and no check in is quick, with new posts appearing every minute. The option to share photos keeps friends and families in close touch with each other.

Support?
Too general!

Support?
Distracts from
the topic!

Support?
Needs more!

Transition words?
Hard to tell what's important.

Concluding sentence?
Missing!

Final draft paragraph:

Now the topic sentence gives a topic (social media) and a main idea (social media wastes time and ruins friendships).

Social media is here to stay, but for many high school kids, the drama it causes results in large amounts of wasted time as well as the loss of good friends. A large percentage of internet users currently use at least one social media site, and many of these are high school students. **First of all**, an hour previously dedicated to homework shrinks to fifteen minutes after replying to posts on Facebook, sharing a few tweets, and investigating a friend of a friend's page. **Next**, even more dramatic than the time wasted, is the amount of energy expended on feuds. **Most unfortunate of all**, relationships among former friends are lost due to misunderstandings and printed words that cannot be retracted. **In conclusion**, users of social media should be aware of the ways it can consume time and energy and the effects it can have on relationships.

The second sentence now provides specific background information.

Three examples support the main idea.

Transition words help the reader understand the importance of ideas.

Concluding sentence restates the main idea.