Research Essay: Thesis, Outline, DraftDraft

1. Submit this entire document (with thesis, outline, and full first draft) to the designated **Assessments > Assignment folder**.
2. Copy and paste the draft **only** into the designated **Discussion Board** for Unit 10 peer feedback.

Complete the following tasks by following along in Unit 9 of the course.

Please note, submission of this work (in both places) is **required** in order for the finished Research Essay to be accepted for evaluation at full value.

# Thesis

Note: this should be in the formula **Source X argument/ narrative is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [your evaluation]** and NOT a thesis about whatever the topic is.

Ormerod’s article does well to speak on the negative affects social media has on relationships, but to fully encapsulate the negative impact, it is imperative to investigate the contributing factors found in research.

# Outline

Feel free to use or adapt/ change the outline template below.

INTRODUCTION

Hook or Inciting Idea:   
Social media, used by many, but it’s impacts understood by little.

Background Context:   
Social media impacts human relationships and due to its wide use and potential negative impacts, the affects should be explored.

Main Source--author, title, one-sentence summary:

In “Why Social Media is Ruining Your Relationships” by Katherine Ormerod, published on May 29th, 2019, Ormerod’s argues that social media creates more superficial relationships and increased feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Provisional Thesis:

Ormerod’s article does well to speak on the negative affects social media has on relationships, but to fully encapsulate the negative impact, it is imperative to investigate the contributing factors found in research.

SUMMARY

Statement of issue/problem, thesis/message, reasons/narrative events:

In “Why Social Media is Ruining Your Relationships” by Katherine Ormerod, published on May 29th, 2019, Ormerod’s argues that social media creates more superficial relationships and increased feelings of loneliness and isolation. Ormerod highlights the differences between actively engaging with others online and observing without interacting. She explains that social media can be used in a way that is not harmful, but ultimately Ormerod believes that most people succumb to using social media in a way that negatively impacts the user. Uiltimately, Ormerod argues that social media platforms make us feel like we are connected with one another, but the nature of social media interactions lacks depth. Ormerod’s article speaks well on the negative affects social media has on relationships, but a deeper examination of research reveals stronger evidence of social media promoting superficial connections, negatively impacting relationships due to reduced mental well-being, and that social media increases the creation of parasocial relationships.

RESPONSE

1. First claim critiquing the main source (tied to the thesis):   
     
   Social media promotes superficial connections and slows the development of deeper relationships.

* Textual evidence from the main source:   
    
  Ormerod argues that social media promotes a distorted view of relationships. She states, “our phones and social apps haven’t just changed how we make relationships, they’ve also changed what we believe relationships to be.” (Ormerod, 2019)
* Textual evidence from (one or more) research source(s):

The article "Social Media and Relationships" notes that "Questions have […] been raised about the quality of online relationships when they substitute for offline relationships." (Butler, Matook, 2015) The authors continue with how social media “may seem like the more efficient way to find and form friendships, but those relationships can be insufficient if physical touch or intensive persuasion are necessary.” (Butler, Matook, 2015)

Butler and Matook have found that their research points to the change of relationships which in turn negatively affects relationships that require physicality. As many serious partnerships involve a physical component it is clear that relationships formed with social media have the tendency to suffer.

1. Second claim critiquing the main source:   
     
   Social media negatively impacts mental well-being which in turn harms relationships

* Textual evidence from the main source:

Ormerod speaks on the negative emotional impacts of passive media consumption. Many feel inadequacy and the fear of missing out just as Ormerod states, “Instead of the feel-good hormones we might expect to be pumping through our veins, instead we’re torn between feelings of FOMO and inadequacy. (Ormerod, 2019)

* Textual evidence from research source(s):

In “The new social landscape: Relationships among social media use, social skills, and offline friendships from age 10–18 years”, authors Steinsbekk et al. provide support to Ormerod’s claims. Their findings report that, “the interaction term between social media use and the intercept (i.e., overall level) of social anxiety was negative and significant.” (Steinsbekk et al., 2024)

These feelings of social anxiety often mean insecurities come forward. Insecurities unmanaged bring conflict between partners, friends, and families when conversations revolving around those arise.

1. Third claim critiquing the main source:   
     
   Alteration of relationships and the increase of parasocial relationships.

* Textual evidence from the main source:  
    
  Ormerod introduces a point of how social media has modified our relationships by stating, "our phones and social apps haven’t just changed how we make relationships, they’ve also changed what we believe relationships to be." (Ormerod, 2019) Ormerod is getting to the point of how people use social media to find likeminded people for friendships and partnerships. This quick and easiness of connecting with people reduces the possibility of having a personal relationship with them. Parasocial relationships come about.  
  + Textual evidence from research source(s):

The article, “Parasocial relationships, social media, & wellbeing”, the authors exclaim that “[Parasocial relationships] develop in part through observing media figures and imagining interactions with them.” (Hoffner, Bond, 2022)   
As more and more people connect, parasocial relationships tend to be created due to the sheer number of people that attempt to connect with one another. The popularity of a group or individual increases to a level that effectively removes the ability for each interaction to be replied to. At first glance, this could be seen as negative. However, Hoffner and Bond report that “social media platforms provide opportunities for people to develop and sustain psychological connections with a wide range of people with whom they do not have (fully) reciprocal relationships.” (Hoffner, Bond, 2022)   
  
They go further into examples that “[Parasocial relationships] with media figures who share a marginalized identity can facilitate development of identity, self-esteem, and well-being.” (Hoffner, Bond, 2022) Social media and it’s impacts are seemingly not all bad due to

CONCLUSION

Restatement of the thesis in new words: The research connects social media and relationships to be an overall negative correlation in relationships by promoting superficiality and its tendency to reduce relationship quality by negatively impacting mental well-being. However, social media’s alteration of relationships promotes a positive side of social media impacts on relationships.

New question(s):

Concluding statement:

# Draft

Write a full first draft (Intro, Summary, Critical Response, Conclusion(s), References). Then submit this entire document to the assignment folder and copy/paste just the draft here to the Discussion Board.

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