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:

Ormerod claims that social media platforms make us feel like we are connected with one another, but the nature of social media interactions lacks depth.

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:   
     
   Oversimplification of active versus passive social media use.

* Textual evidence from the main source:   
    
  Ormerod introduces the idea that active consumption leads to positive outcomes whereas passive consumption brings negative consequences. Her explanation can be seen as oversimplistic, which creates a gap to be filled by further research. Active engagement can even be superficial and lack genuine connection. She also doesn’t address the potential negative impacts of excessive active engagement. To maintain a constant online presence can cause people to feel overwhelmed.
* Textual evidence from research source(s):

CONCLUSION

Restatement of the thesis in new words:

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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