**Assignment 1: Exploring the Core Concepts of Social Network Analysis and Research**

In this assignment, you are writing a proposal paper that touches the dynamic realm of social network analysis and its application to your specific research interest. The aim is to help students think and develop a comprehensive yet concise exploration, covering three essential components: a brief overview of your research interest, an insightful discussion on the application of social network analysis to your area of study, and a succinct description of the pertinent data that will be employed.

**I. Introduction (2pt)**

Start your essay with a captivating introduction that introduces your overarching research interest. Articulate the significance and relevance of your chosen research area.

**II. Research Interest Overview (2pt)**

Offer a concise yet informative portrayal of your research interest. Define the key concepts and provide why this research is important. This section could include your own personal interest why you want to do this research and highlight the foreseeable challenges or complexities that make your research intriguing.

**III. Social Network Analysis in Your Research (2pt)**

Dive into the heart of your essay by clarifying the application of social network analysis to your research interest. Demonstrate a nuanced understanding of social network analysis principles and elucidate how these principles can be leveraged to enhance your research. (What is the node? Is the network going to be a directed network? What is a good social network metric for your research?) Discuss specific methodologies, frameworks, or models within social network analysis that align with your research objectives.

**IV. Data Description (2pt)**

Provide a rough description of the data that will be used in your social network analysis. Detail the sources, types, and relevance of the data to your research interest. Discuss any potential challenges or limitations associated with the data and propose strategies to mitigate these challenges. This section should underscore the credibility and robustness of the data you intend to employ.

**V. Conclusion (2pt)**

Summarize the key points discussed in the essay and reiterate the potential impact of applying social network analysis to your research interest. Conclude with a forward-looking statement that highlights the anticipated contributions of your analytical approach to the broader academic or practical domain.

**Formatting Guidelines**

Adhere to the specified formatting guidelines, ensuring the essay is no longer than 5 pages. Maintain a double-spaced format, use a 12-point font, and set 1-inch margins for a polished and professional presentation.

This assignment encourages a thoughtful exploration of the symbiotic relationship between social network analysis and your research interest, fostering a deeper understanding of the potential insights that can be gleaned from this analytical approach.