Worksheet
Assumption College Thonburi
LABOR OMNIA VINCIT
DESIGN YOUR FUTURE
Intensive Course
Bell

Name - Surname _____ Grade _____ No. _____

Social Media Society

1. SITUATION: Friend or Enemy?

We all use it. But is it good for us?

Step 1: The Daily Check

How many social media apps do you check before you eat breakfast?

⧌ 0 (I sleep)   ⧌ 1-2   ⧌ 3-5   ⧌ 5+ (I am the internet)

Key Vocabulary

Before we read, check these words. They appear in the text.

- **antisocial** (adj): avoiding spending time with other people.
- **hikikomori** (n): a Japanese term for people who withdraw from society and seek extreme isolation.
- **popularity contest** (n): a situation where being liked is more important than ability or quality.

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2. COMPLICATION: Too Many Opinions!

Read the text below about the impact of social media. There are **8 different perspectives**.

(Source: "Social Media Society")

1. Social media is changing everything
Social media is changing how we communicate, how we do business, and how we live in society. People use it to stay in touch with others, to get people's attention and to check the news. When we consider this is only 20 or 30 years after the start of the Web it is not surprising that it is considered one of the

biggest ever changes in modern society. So, has social media been a positive or negative development for society?

2. People are less connected

Many people argue that social media makes young people antisocial. In 1998 psychiatrist Tamaki Saito invented the term "hikikomori" which translates into English as avoiding social contact. It describes a growing number of young men who shut themselves away in their bedrooms from society and use technology more and more. Research suggests this is not only a Japanese problem but one that exists around the world.

3. The only way to socialize

However, other people believe that social media is not more popular because young people are more antisocial. In comparison to the past, many children are not allowed out as much to play. As a result, many use social media to stay in touch with friends because they are not allowed to see them as often. It also allows them to feel part of a wider group.

4. Not just for young people

Some think the Internet is just for young people, but this trend is slowly changing. One of the fastest growing groups of social media users is now grandparents who are using it to keep in touch with other people. Since people now move around a lot for work, many grandparents use it to keep in touch with their own children or grandchildren.

5. Online profile

Though social media helps us to communicate with other people, it can also change how we see ourselves. Some argue that social media makes us compare ourselves more to other people because we often just post the highlights of our lives. This makes us feel anxious about what other people think of us and can make people depressed.

6. Being popular

Equally, social media is now often considered a popularity contest. From how many people follow us to how many "likes" we get, it can have a big effect on how we feel about ourselves. People often feel anxious about how many "likes" they get on a picture or comment. Many people feel hurt if people don't like their pictures or posts.

7. Wanting everything now

Social media also makes us want everything now. The idea of wanting something immediately is connected to another basic human need for food, water, and shelter. We reply almost immediately to e-mails and posts. Unfortunately, we are now becoming much worse at waiting for things and social media is in part making this issue worse.

8. Time to stop?

On the one hand, social media makes our world more connected than ever. On the other hand, it also makes many people feel more anxious about their own image, creates false friendship groups, and many people are less patient. Perhaps we all need to take a break.

3. RESOLUTION: The Hero Tool

HERO TOOL: Skimming for Tone

The Problem: The text is long (8 paragraphs). If you translate every word, you will run out of time.

The Solution: Don't read everything! Use the **First Sentence** and **Linking Words** to find the Tone.

- Is it **Positive (+)**? Look for: connect, help, opportunity, socialize
- Is it **Negative (-)**? Look for: antisocial, anxious, depressed, unfortunately
- Is it **Balanced/Neutral (=)**? Look for: on the one hand... on the other hand

Task: Use your Hero Tool.

Look at the 8 sections again. decide if each one is **Positive (+)**, **Negative (-)**, or **Balanced (=)**.

Underline ONE word or phrase that helped you decide.

Section	Tone (+ / - / =)	Evidence (Key Word/Phrase)
1. Changing everything		
2. Less connected		
3. Only way to socialize		
4. Not just for young people		
5. Online profile		
6. Being popular		
7. Wanting everything now		
8. Time to stop?		

Discussion

Section 8 suggests we "all need to take a break." Do you agree? Why/Why not?

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Answer Key

Task: Tone Analysis

1. **Balanced/Neutral (=)**: "positive or negative development?"
2. **Negative (-)**: "antisocial", "shut themselves away"
3. **Positive (+)**: "socialize", "feel part of a wider group"
4. **Positive (+)**: "keep in touch", "opportunity to socialize"
5. **Negative (-)**: "anxious", "depressed", "not real"
6. **Negative (-)**: "popularity contest", "anxious", "false connections"
7. **Negative (-)**: "worse at waiting", "issue worse"
8. **Balanced (=)**: "On the one hand... On the other hand", "connected... anxious"