

Tobias section

Pro Argument: The significant benefits include Connectivity, Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Creativity, having Global Awareness, building Communities, and joining Noble Causes. These are some of the major concepts but not all of them.

Connectivity, Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Creativity: We are able to connect with others that share our interests, they are seeking the same information that we are and in addition we can showcase our ability to use the platform creatively. You are exposed to people and information that you would not have had access to before.

Global Awareness, Building Communities: One of the amazing things that happens as we venture into social media is the discovery of like minded people and organizations. If we expand beyond our smaller circles of friends and family we discover that people are no longer constrained by geographical location and in fact are no longer constrained by any physical restraints at all.

Noble Causes: If we think about the recent events that have reshaped the political and social landscapes we immediately recognize that they were largely accomplished with the use of social media. We can use a few examples for a case study. The Arab Spring, the #MeToo movement and even more recently the BLM has used social media to find like minded people to join a cause for social change.

Sources:

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<https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2012/11/28/role-social-media-arab-uprisings/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53273381>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/10/13/metoo-impact-hashtag-made-online/1633570002/>

Park's section

Con argument: The feature of the social media feedback loops is not good as 1) its design of addictiveness which leads to prolonged exposure to social media, 2) Prolonged exposure to social media can increase mental health issues, and 3) it causes an echo chamber effect as people can only see selected information that reinforces their existing views without encountering opposing views. The big tech companies need to be held accountable for these algorithms.

Addictiveness: For the biggest social media companies such as Tik Tok, Instagram, and Facebook, success is defined by the hours users spend on their app. These companies use dopamine-driven algorithms/feedback loops so that it shows the content that we are interested in only and the next content that would keep us hooked so that we scroll through our feed.

Mental Health Issues: Studies have shown that prolonged exposure to social media can increase depression, stress, and anxiety. Being stuck in this loop will have both long term and short term effects on people's mental health and general well-being.

Echo Chamber Effect: The social media feedback loops personalize our feeds with their algorithms. These algorithms amplify viewpoints and create echo chambers that prevent people from being exposed to information that contradicts their preexisting beliefs.

Sources:

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<https://www.digitaltimes.africa/social-media-and-the-dopamine-feedback-loop-heres-how-it-affects-you/>

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<https://www.wired.com/story/facebook-twitter-echo-chamber-confirmation-bias/>

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