The physical world contains relationships in which you have people that are true to you and can be connected with physically. These people are the ones that you truly know and can physically be with, friends, family, fellow students, and many others are considered physical networks. These people are seen, felt and acknowledged almost every day. They are physically included in your everyday life routine. You can actually call them your real friends and family. Childhoods that occurred before having all this major technology, such as cell phones, were not as complicated as life is now. People were more interactive with each other. Friends were just friends and there were not any friends with a social network name said before it. The definition of a real friend is a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection, typically exclusive of sexual or family relations.

The virtual world contains a computer-based simulated environment. Social networking has created new forms of relationships for the physical world. A network is a lot of connected components. Facebook allows you to add anyone as your “friend.” You may find people you never met before. On Twitter and Instagram you have “followers.” Your followers get feedback from you every time you make a post. These social networks are internet-based programs that allow connections to expand. You can find old friends, meet new people and even communicate through images and messages. With meeting new people and communicating you can make links, which are connections, and connections can bring you information.

The physical and virtual worlds have merged on top of my generation. This joining together has characteristics that both help and hinder not just one, but all generations. The joining of the networks associated with the physical and virtual worlds will impact these generations in many different ways. The virtual world, particularly social networking, gives people access to network connections and information that would not have been available in the physical world alone. Instead of going to a library and looking at books with a lot of pages in it, you can have a piece of technology already by your side that can give the information you need quickly. The quick and easy access can help with the connections of friends and family when you cannot be with them physically.

With the benefit comes the consequence. Social networking in the virtual world creates a host of distractions and illusions that can be confusing and misleading for those who have trouble distinguishing between what is physical and what is virtual. How does one exist within these two worlds and keep a healthy balance? If you live too far in physical world, you will be like Wendell Berry, a radical proponent of minimal technology. If you live too far in the virtual world and do not build and make time for the physical world, you will be like Angela Bennett, a socially isolated individual with limited capacity to form real connections. In order to thrive in the society of the future, one must balance the two worlds, and live somewhere in the seam where they overlap.