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English 1

Exploratory Essay #4

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YouTube has fundamentally shaped my world in many ways. On YouTube, you can upload content (videos) that other people can watch, with around 100 hours of content being uploaded per minute. I interact with YouTube by watching videos on the platform. Though I do not have friend groups on the platform or communicate through it, what happens on the platform still bleeds into my real-life experiences. For example, the content I watch on YouTube can inform me on what is going on in the world, whether it be a natural disaster, a war, etc. It also introduced me to new hobbies and activities that I previously wasn’t into (such as chess). Thus, content that I consume on YouTube influences what hobbies/activities I get into while also informing me about current world events.

Elaborating on how YouTube shapes the way I live my life, YouTube is a source of information about current world events. Whenever something major happens, it will most likely be uploaded to YouTube within a few hours. This fast sharing of news helps me better understand what is happening in the world. Though YouTube doesn’t really control who I interact with and how I interact with them, it does control what content I watch on the platform and thus what activities/hobbies I am introduced to. For example, I got into chess a bit after watching YouTube videos. Sometimes, though, I become too absorbed in YouTube and spend too much time on the platform. Though I believe that YouTube has not changed my worldview on topics such as politics or social issues (mostly because I don’t watch videos on those topics), it is very plausible that someone who does watch content discussing such topics can be introduced to perspectives that differ from their own. This type of content (which is sometimes strongly worded) has the potential to shift people’s worldviews on various topics in our culture. This gives YouTube the power of being a platform that can allow people to influence other people’s opinions/viewpoints about not only their community but also the world with the content they create.

To conclude, I feel that YouTube has been a net gain in my life due to widespread coverage of numerous topics, introducing me to new hobbies, sports, and activities that I had previously not known about. This can widen my perspective of the world around me and can get me interested in new activities where I can meet new people and learn new things. I think that it is important, however, to note that YouTube, no matter how much moderation there is, can lead to divisiveness and hate over various topics and to understand how this confliction of views can influence/impact you as an individual. Also, I feel that it is important not to become too absorbed in YouTube where you start to neglect important tasks (don’t become addicted) as this can negatively impact your life in both the short and long term. If you can avoid this, however, I feel that YouTube can positively impact your life by expanded your view/perspective of the world around you.

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