CLAIM: Young people’s tendency to make extensive use of portable devices like

smartphones and tablets has hurt their development of social skills.

REASON: These devices encourage users to form artificial personalities and relationships

online rather than fully and honestly engaging with the people around them.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the

claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

Ever since the introduction of iPhone by Steve Jobs in 2007, portable devices have receive increasing popularity. This is phenomenon is especially eminent in the youth population where portable devices have become essential part of their daily life. The topic claim, which is an idea share by a lot of people, argues that young people’s tendency to make extensive use of portable devices has hurt their development of social skills. I strongly disagree with the claim and think the portable devices help foster social skills of modern era for two reasons.

To begin with, portable devices make interaction with people of different background more common and accessible. Today’s young people have little to no trouble interacting with people while ignoring cultural and social background. In contrast, elder generation prefer to stay with people from similar milieu and turns to have awkward moments starting conversation with people that is drastically different from themselves. This is evidence by the cliché 80s and 90s movies scenarios that teenagers from small rural counties having hard time making friends when they first enter colleges in big metropolises. These scenes become much less common entering the twenty first century and almost disappear in the movies in the second decade. Young people through mobile devices learn the social skills to interact with a wilder range of people in comparison to their predecessor generations. They loss no nature of personalities but their personalities are more suitable for the modern era contradicting the reason above.

Further, social skills in the current era, especially for the youth generation, have changed to adapt the popularity of portable device. For instance, the current global pandemic forces majority of the population to work from home. The social skills for working from home people is very different from people in classic offices. Young people are well suited for this scenario as this has been their every day life for year. Even before the pandemic, a large chunk of social interaction, like banking and study, have moved online. Portable devices foster this trend and this trend help developed the new social skills of this era. Young people may be socially awkward in the eyes of the elder generation, but the elders are equally having trouble learning the new social scall vice versa. The development of social skills is not hurt by the portable devices but changed its path to a different new form of social skills.

Of cause, some argue that social skill includes physical interaction, like play sports and drink in bars with other which is not possible to achieve via portable devices. However, one must keep in minds that for the young people, the need for physically be with other have decrease and if they need to get in touch with others within a social distance, the form of social interaction may have changed by portable devices as well. In my opinion, young people will not get hurt form the use of portable device, their personalities will remain ‘normal’ as respect to the youth generation and they will not miss the opportunity of engaging with others fully and honestly.