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### Is the Internet Bad for Society?

In today's society we rely on interacting with people through the use of cell phones. Previous generations didn't have the experience because back then technology was not as advanced. Today with the rise of the internet, it creates a segway for people to express their emotions to others or even to interact with people worldwide. However, in this essay I would argue that the internet can be bad for society.

'The internet, with its promise of unlimited connection, ultimately leaves us feeling isolated and alone, substituting genuine human connection with shallow online interactions.'" (Sherry 112). When people have genuine human interaction, sincere and authentic communication or engagement between individuals, it's better than an online interaction. People can make use of other methods of communication besides the internet when communicating with others. Even though the internet has made major changes in the way we communicate, it is a pivotal point in connecting people from one side of the world to the other. With the rise of the use of the internet, there has been an increase in social media presence. Now more than ever, people are curious about others' lifestyles and what they do on a daily basis which can lead to cyberbullying. Cyberbullying has become an increasingly present issue in recent years especially due to social media. Online bullying has moved beyond the school yard and into the digital world affecting individuals all around. Unfortunately, many teenagers have fallen prey to

victimized cyberbullying. Cyberbullying can take many forms including threats, name calling, degrading commentaries and creative mockery. This can lead to serious consequences for those who fall victim to such persecution. Cyberbullying is a serious problem that must be addressed by parents, educators, and policy makers.

“The constant exposure to carefully curated highlight reels of others' lives can lead to social comparison, feelings of inadequacy, and ultimately, a sense of depression.” (Twenge 83 ) Social media can cause depression by people expressing their feelings or any type of illness on social media. Victims of cyberbullying are more likely to experience anxiety, depressions and even suicidal thoughts. “The more we devote ourselves to the online world, the more we risk losing touch with the world around us, including our own thoughts, emotions, and relationships.” (Carr 119) When individuals send out a post, it has now left their own privacy and entered the global media realm. Meanwhile, others are able to do or say as they please with the content that is created. This puts the content creator into a negative or positive spotlight that beacons the attention of everyone in the world to then give feedback with said information. In today's society, everyone is not for the pure good of all individuals so negative commentary becomes idolized and put on a pedestal. They hide behind their device screens and tear creators down based on their content without thinking about the repercussions of their actions and the trauma that they are leaving behind. Furthermore, people hide behind different personas especially on social media. They are in constant need of instant gratification which is disheartening because you don't know whether someone is truly happy or is putting on a facade when a post hits the internet. Everyone's different and no one person's experience is the same. Therefore, mentally, no one is aware of your head space but you as an individual. Many suffer in silence with mental illness, depression and anxiety which unfortunately the internet preys upon. “The seductive pull of social media undermines the essential bonds that hold our society together, replacing genuine

human connection with superficial interactions and contributing to the gradual unraveling of our social fabric.” (Lanier 52)

Some argue that social media is good for society and has a positive impact. Social media has turned out to be a powerful force that has changed the way we share information, communicate, and connect with others. Social media is great for promoting social interaction, entitle individuals, and expand diverse vases. Social media contributes to the growth, progress, and betterment of society. Furthermore, social media is good for strengthening communities and opening doors to new opportunities for people all over the world. Social media is a positive influence on young adolescents. The media as a force has the potential to shape a more connected and inclusive future for all.

Another reason why social media is good for society is because it gives us information, knowledge, access to scholarly articles, and the ability to engage in research. Social media can also grow businesses and empower people to try out new skills and expand their professional and personal development. Social media has transformed communication by bringing people around the world closer to each other by emailing, messaging, and apps which enables instant and seamless interaction. Individuals can connect with friends and family that's not within geographical boundaries. Moreover, social media has improved cultural exchange by allowing people all over the world to share their experiences, perspectives and ideas. People use social media to propel into the workforce through job listings by business owners and corporate organizations. Social media is an empowering tool that will forever change the way people communicate. “The internet has the power to transcend geographical boundaries and cultural barriers, allowing individuals to engage in meaningful dialogue, share diverse perspectives, and cultivate a sense of shared humanity.” (Zuckerman 73)

In conclusion, while we can not argue that the internet brought forth significant changes in how our society has advanced, it is important to recognize that it fostered some negative outcomes. It is important that we approach the use of the internet with caution and interpersonal knowledge. The use of the internet is not necessarily a dangerous thing but it is the misuse of said technology through human behavior that makes it have adverse effects. It is no secret that the use of social media is an ever changing aspect of the way people communicate with each other. Although it may reduce the ability to have genuine face to face interaction with those around us, one can argue that it does have an effect on how we communicate. Not only does it allow us to get information at an immense speed but it also allows us to expand and grow diversely in how we express ourselves. It connects each and every one of us from diverse backgrounds to exist and coexist in a variegated world.

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