

Written Assignment 1: Social Media

In this assignment, you will write an essay that discusses two views about social media and assesses their significance. To complete this assignment, you can think of the readings and language points you have learnt in unit 1.

A. Writing Structure:

- Introduction (50 words)
 - general to specific
 - a paraphrased question along with your thesis statement
- Body Paragraph
 - Paragraph 1: Discuss the first view
 - Provide details or evidence, examples or implications,..etc
 - Paragraph 2: Discuss the second view
 - Provide details or evidence, examples or implications,..etc
 - Paragraph 3: Evaluate its significance
 - Provide comparison/contrast along with justification
- Conclusion
 - restate your thesis statement
 - offer a final thought or implication

B. Choose a topic and conduct brainstorming

(1) Some people believe that social media has improved communication and strengthened relationships. Others think it has weakened face-to-face interaction and led to isolation.

Discuss both views and assess their significance.

(2) Many argue that social media platforms empower individuals to express themselves freely. Others believe they encourage superficiality and discourage meaningful dialogue.

Discuss both views and assess their significance.

This section is for your brainstorm:

- Social media creates a hyper-connected world, enabling global communication....
- It significantly weakens the quality of real face-to-face interaction by replacing in-person meetings with convenient, yet less meaningful, online contact.
- The "highlight reel" effect leads to toxic social comparison and contributes to feelings of isolation and inadequacy among users....
- Despite the drawbacks, the benefits (like global connectivity...) generally outweigh the negatives when social media is used with caution....

C. Assign part(s) for your group members. Stick the chunk writing(s) in the correct order.

Social media has become part of everyday life. It allows millions of people to connect and communicate with one another as well as share information all across the world. Some people believe that social media has improved communication and strengthened relationships. Others think it has weakened face-to-face interaction and led to isolation. Because of these opposing opinions, it is necessary to look at both sides and understand how important their impacts really are.

People believe that social media has improved communication and strengthened relationships by creating a hyper-connected world. It allows families and friends to maintain close ties across distances, while also allowing users to meet new people from all around the world. Furthermore, it also encourages people to cooperate and increase empathy toward each other. For instance, a famous Cambodian influencer raised funds through crowdfunding on Facebook, which collected about a million dollars, to help the soldiers affected by the Cambodia-Thailand War. This shows that social media can be a centralized platform for philanthropic action, which allows people to work together and achieve tangible results.

In contrast, the really big issue with social media is how it makes our real face-to-face interactions weaker, and it constantly leaves us feeling more alone. It's easy, but that convenience often replaces the actual hanging out in person, where you get all the important interacting stuff like tone, body language. And when online contact replaces those real-life meetups, our connections with each other become less deep and meaningful, which is a serious problem. Moreover, people on the internet only ever show their perfection, the best moments of their lives; they never show bad stuff or bad experiences. And when you spend all day looking at everyone else's highlight reels, you will start comparing yourself to them and then feel like your own life isn't quite good enough. Therefore, this whole habit of scrolling and watching alone doesn't truly connect us; instead, it mostly makes us feel lonely, even when we have thousands of friends online.

After evaluating the result of social media usage, it can be seen that while social media has enhanced communication and relationships, it also has made meeting or interacting in person less important and is causing people to isolate themselves. Nonetheless, the positive effects seem to be far more significant than the negative ones because social media not only has turned the world into a hyper-connected place where people can keep in touch with their loved ones despite distances and get to know new people, but also has increased cooperation and empathy between people. Although things such as weaker connections, isolationism, or selective self-representation can occur, these are based solely on the user's attitudes rather than social media itself.

Overall, social media has both positive and negative influences on communication. It connects people globally and supports cooperation, yet it can also reduce the quality of in-person relationships.

Although these concerns are significant, the benefits generally outweigh the drawbacks when social media is used wisely.

D. Write your revised paragraph below. Check (E) to see what your essay must include.

Social media has become part of everyday life. It allows millions of people to connect and communicate with one another as well as share information all across the world. Some people assert that social media has improved communication and strengthened relationships. Others think it has weakened face-to-face interaction and led to isolation. Because of these opposing opinions, it is necessary to look at both sides and comprehend how important their impacts really are.

People believe that social media has improved communication and strengthened relationships by creating a hyper-connected world. It allows families and friends to maintain close ties across distances, while also allowing users to meet new people from all around the world. Furthermore, it helps nurture people to cooperate and increase empathy toward each other. For instance, a famous Cambodian influencer raised funds through crowdfunding on Facebook, which collected about a million dollars to help the soldiers affected by the Cambodia-Thailand War. This shows that social media can be a centralized platform for philanthropic action, which allows people to work together and achieve tangible results.

In contrast, the really big issue with social media is how it makes our real face-to-face interactions weaker, and it constantly leaves us feeling more alone. It's easy, but that convenience often replaces the actual hanging out in person, where you get all the important interacting stuff like tone and body language. And when online contact replaces those real-life meetups, our connections with each other become less deep and meaningful, which is a serious problem. Moreover, people on the internet only ever show their perfection, the best moments of their lives; they never show bad stuff or bad experiences. And when you spend all day looking at everyone else's highlight reels, you will start comparing yourself to them and then feel like your own life isn't quite good enough. Therefore, this whole habit of scrolling and watching alone doesn't truly connect us; instead, it mostly makes us feel lonely, even when we have thousands of friends online.

After evaluating the consequences of social media usage, it can be seen that while social media has enhanced communication and relationships, it also has made meeting or interacting in person less important and is causing people to isolate themselves. Nonetheless, the positive effects seem to be far more significant than the negative ones because social media not only turned the world into a hyper-connected place where people can keep in touch with their loved ones despite distances and get to know new people, but also increased cooperation and empathy between people. **Although things such as weaker connections, isolationism, or selective self-representation can occur, these are based solely on the user's attitudes rather than social media itself.**

Overall, social media has both positive and negative influences on communication. It connects people globally and supports cooperation, yet it can also reduce the quality of in-person relationships. Although these concerns are significant, the benefits generally outweigh the drawbacks when social media is used wisely.

E. Criteria

	YES	NO
1.I have used at least 8 vocabulary words from unit 1. All the words are UNDERLINED in the writing. Here they are: . Assert, Comprehend, Ties, Empathy, Crowdfunding, Nurture, Philanthropic, Tangible ...	YES	
2.I have made at least 2 concessions or contrastive structure. The sentences are BOLD .	YES	
3.The essay contains 5 paragraphs (an introduction-three body paragraphs-a conclusion)	YES	
4.Each paragraph centers around one main idea and/or fulfill all the required purposes.	YES	
5.The essay is free from mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	YES	

F. Deadline

- (1) Submit A-F in paper-based format in **Week 5, 17th-21st November 2025**.
- (2) Receive the feedback
- (3) Revise, save, and upload onto your E-portfolio.