Conflicting Viewpoints Essay Part 1

PHI 210

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Believing Game

One of the most debated topics at procon.org is *“Are Social Networking Sites Good for Our Society?”* The use of social media over recent years has become common and 69% of Americans currently use these networking sites. The sites were at first developed to ease communication and connect people all across the world. However, they have evolved and become sources of information where people can find the latest news and events. The rapid changes have in turn prompted a strong debate on how social media influences our behaviors as well as the authenticity of the information we retrieve based on the fact that anyone can share.

In my opinion, I believe that social networks have become part of our lives and are a very good source of information. Major news agencies currently use social media to share their articles which we can then access easily. People can also debate about recent topics freely and share their opinions from time to time. This cannot be achieved without social networking. Therefore, for this debate, I support the Pro side of the discussion as I believe that social networking is not only good but also healthy for our society.

*Premises that oppose my position*

**Premise One:** Social media enables the spread of unreliable and false information

**Premise Two:** Social media lacks privacy and exposes users to government and corporate intrusions

**Premise Three:** Social media can lead to stress and offline relationship problems.

**Analysis**

***Premise One Analysis***

*Question One*: What's interesting about this view is that the author clearly understands one of the negatives of social networking. Their extensive knowledge of the content is impressive. Their content is also well-supported meaning that their information can be verified by other sources.

*Question Two*: If I believed this view, I would be able to notice how unreliable information is spread through social media. The information can be very damaging and can lead to forming poor opinions or positions due to incorrect information.

*Question Three*: This idea might be true under the condition that information from unverified sources is shared across the networks either knowingly or unknowingly. This can then cause a chain reaction through which people share it widely with their friends which can create a perception that it’s actually true.

***Premise Two Analysis***

*Question One*: The premise is interesting since it focuses on the personal information that we share on social media. People share a lot about themselves and their interests on social media and at many times it may not occur as if the information could be collected. This information is majorly shared with friends but can be accessed by almost anyone on the platforms.

*Question Two*: If I believed this view, I would notice that we are vulnerable to third parties accessing our information online which they could use for a variety of reasons.

*Question Three*: This idea might be true if both governmental and private organizations access information in social media databases and use them for other functions which are not initially stated by the social networks.

***Premise Three Analysis***

*Question One*: The premise is interesting as it focuses on how social media affects our brains and relationships. The topic could be very sensitive and provide a lot of information on how our lives can be affected by the use of social media.

*Question Two*: If I believed in this view, I would notice that social media has somehow become a tool that people use every day. Most of them are oblivious to how it affects them and their real-life relationships which are very important.

*Question Three*: This idea might be true if people are obsessed with social media and put little or no consideration to their real-life relationships.

Ultimately, the premises present a lot of truths about social media. Considering them can help a person understand social media fully and how it affects its users. Combined with information from pros, a lot can be learned about social, issues affecting its users and solutions that can help with the problem.

References

<https://socialnetworking.procon.org/>