

Communication has changed over the years and now with social media, kids are spending a lot of time on devices texting, looking at photos, watching videos etc. But because of social media, people are losing interest in face-to-face communication. There are many articles that talk about social media affecting teens positively and negatively such, “ Antisocial Networking” by Hillary Stout, “ Is Social Media Driving People Away From Real Interactions?” by Righ Knight, and an infographic “ Let's Get Social” by Scott Jacobs. Social media apps such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter are now being used a lot as sources of communication through long distance. I agree with Stout’s argument that nowadays, kids are less interested in face-to-face communication because of disengagement from real interactions, reject face-to-face communication, and time spent on devices.

First of all, Stout’s argument is that kids are losing interest in face-to-face communication with their friend. I agree with her because of disengagement from real interactions. People nowadays are mostly on their phones rather than conversing with their friends or family. In Resource D, it says “...in a social gathering and 80% or more of those in the room have their heads down at their cellphones, tablets, or other mobile devices.”(paragraph 2)Social media has basically taken over people because they don’t interact with others due to the fact that they last a long time on devices. People now are also avoiding hanging out with their friends. In Resource D, it says “ How many times have you asked a friend to “hang out” and they reply with

something along the lines of “ Na, I’ll just message you on Facebook.” I actually have done this to a couple of my friends, when they ask me to go to the mall or go to their house. I often tell them no and that it would be better if we just texted, video chatted, or talked on the phone.

Another reason why I agree with Stout’s argument is rejecting face-to-face communication. People have become so attached to the internet that when they have to communicate, they don’t react very good. In Resource B, it says “...John, was keeping up with friends so much on Facebook that he has become more withdrawn and skittish about face-to-face interactions.(paragraph 21)“ In other words, John gets nervous and avoids face-to-face interactions due to the fact that he talked to his friends so much through Facebook. Even people with experience with technology throughout their whole life still reject face-to-face communication. In Resource B, it says “Even though young digital natives are very good with the tech skills, they are weak with the face-to-face human contact skills.”(paragraph 18) In other words, people who were born and raised with technology don’t do very well when it comes to face-to-face communication because they had technology as they grew up and adapted to it. For example, I am a digital native because I was born when technology was used and being improved. In my opinion, I am weak in face-to-face communication because I love and prefer to use technology to converse with my family and friends. People of all ages can be weak with face-to-face human contact skills and be very skillful with technology.

In addition, the amount of time spent on devices also play a role in kids lacking interest in face-to-face communication. In this era, it is very normal to see many people outside walking while using their devices, sitting at a family reunion and using their devices, or having play dates using electronics. The author in Resource B states, “ The findings came just a few months after

the Kaiser Family Foundation reported that Americans between the ages of 8 and 18 spend on average 7 ½ hours a day using some sort of device...”(paragraph 9) My cousin who is 10 years old spends more than 7 ½ hours on an electronic device because at school they use it the whole day and at home she uses a device while eating, doing homework, and playing in the tub. Those who use a device for a long period of time can develop digital eye strain which is an uncomfortable feeling in the eye after using a device for more than two hours. Most people spend two or more hours on a device and others spend more time. In Resource E, it says “ Nearly three quarters spend more than two hours per day on social media. Almost half are on four plus hours.” I would fall under the category, of four plus hours because I usually spend about 8-9 hours on a device per day. In Ms. Park’s survey the results were similar because most of the class used their electronic devices for two hours and more than half of the number used it for four hours or more. Although some may think kids are getting less interested in face-to-face communication, others may disagree with you and think social media is not causing kids to lack interest in face-to-face communication. In Ms. Park’s class survey, most of the class uses technology to communicate more than face-to-face communication yet the entire class said that they prefer face-to-face conversing over communicating through technology. Even after knowing this, I would still agree with Stout’s argument because one thing is to say and another is to do. In this situation, my classmates and I prefer to converse face-to-face and not through devices but, we converse more through technology.

In conclusion, kids are lacking interest in face-to-face communication and are getting more engaged in technology. I agree with Stout’s argument because of disengagement from real interactions, reject face-to-face communication, and time spent on devices. This argument

implicates that face-to-face communication skills are labeled as passé and can lead to people becoming anti-social or addicted to technology.