

The Negative Effects of Social Media – Is It Really That Bad?

Project 1 Reflection – David Price

As we all know, social media has its place in today's society. It can be used for marketing purposes, helping businesses take off, or it can be used in education settings where administrators can post updates to students. However, social media comes with many negative effects. I chose this topic for many reasons. One reason being that our generation is so connected to social media, that it just seemed like an area that I have great background in positively and negatively. While social media has helped stay connected through periods of isolation such as the pandemic, it has also created periods of isolation. For example, any incidents that may happen on social media can greatly take a toll on one's mental health (I can speak from personal experience).

Part of the writing and revision process was set around making not necessarily like a speech, but worded in a way that did not make it sound like it was being read verbatim from a document. I revised the document once trying to make it flow better. One thing I think that I could have done better is utilizing the peer review. Between the time I submitted the rough draft and the peer review compared to the time when I wrote and recorded the final draft, I did not even think about the peer review activity that was done. I think in the future I need to remind myself that we did in fact do an activity that could have potentially made this better and forced a stronger argument. Two of the three comments that I received stated that I should have utilized more outside sources. Listening to the final recording and reading through the final script, I could not agree more, but I did not realize at the time it was recorded. While on the topic of peer editing and review, I'm not sure what other way it would have helped, since

there wasn't much that was commented on. Reading through the original discussion post and final copy of the script, there were a couple of grammatical errors and spelling errors that could have been corrected in the comments.

With all work comes both strengths and weaknesses. For this project, I think the strongest part of the essay was the actual voice recording. I was able to utilize multiple resources around campus, such as using an external microphone for higher quality audio. I was also able to utilize audio editing programs to edit interruptions in main recording out. This saved time when I would mess a sentence up, or a loud background noise was present since it was able to be easily removed. This was the part that I had the most fun with, so I think that is why it is the strongest part of the project. I was also able to improve skills on finding different ways to get the same point across. Rather than using the same word too many times in the same paragraph or even on the same page, I was able to find different ways of wording the sentences while still sending the same message. While it may sound like a basic writing skill, it has always been challenging to find different words that accomplish the same general idea as what originally was being said.

I liked the option to portray the argument in words rather than text. I feel that using your voice and words gives you the option to utilize communication tones. For example, if you are trying to show a serious moment or topic in your composition, you don't need to literally write "seriously...etc." Instead, you can use the tone of your voice which can hint to the listener at how serious the point you are trying to make is.

In conclusion, it was a fun project to compose an argument on a topic that interests me as well as apply technological skills to a course that would normally make me stress. I would

compose more of these since it makes it feel more like a communications assignment rather than just writing an essay for a grade. The online post that I did was posted to a discussion area where I hope it catches people's attention and directs them to the audio essay where they can hear about some of the negative effects that social media really has. Hopefully they can answer the question – is it really that bad?