

Many people think social networking sites such as Facebook have a bad influence on people and society. Do you agree or disagree?

Brainstorming

*Negatives:*

- time-consuming: people have less time for important matters
- bad content: people, especially young users are exposed to material not suitable for their age
- social networking actually makes you less sociable in the real world – people prefer to chat than to talk
- distorted reality: living for social media – trying to reach unreal standards
- cyber bullying: bullying on social media is easier than ever and comments are visible to everyone

*Positives:*

- Facebook allows you to stay up to date (e.g. events / group posts)
- Allows easier communication and staying in touch with friends – the society is more connected, which increases respect towards others
- Other services make life easier e.g. Facebook Marketplace, Facebook Payments

## ESSAY

Social media sites are becoming an integral part of every young person's life. One such site is the well-known Facebook, which was initially created to connect college students but has now developed into being the most popular social media network, allowing you to connect with almost anyone in the world. It is being argued that Facebook has a bad influence on both the individual and the society due to its omnipresence.

Facebook can be accessed from almost any device, at any time of day or night and you will always find yourself entertained with its constantly updating content. Therefore, it is no surprise, that people access Facebook multiple times a day. The never-ending scrolling down the feed is a very time-consuming activity and keeps its users from more important activities. This can be harmful especially to children, who can spend most of their free time looking at Facebook rather than doing their homework, playing sports or being outdoors. Furthermore, children can be exposed to content including violence, "fake news" or unachievable "standards", which will create a distorted reality of the world. It is also important to point out, that social media can actually make you more anti-social. Some users feel more comfortable in their more distant social media presence and decrease direct real-world interactions with their friends and family. Lastly, social media sites can be used for cyber-bullying, where offending posts and comments can be shared with just one-click and can have devastating consequences on individuals.

Contrarily, social media sites make the world a smaller and more peaceful place, where people on the other side of the globe are no longer distant, but within a couple of mouse-clicks. By joining various groups on Facebook, you can easily connect with people who have similar interest, irrespective of their geographical location. Furthermore, Facebook allows you to check effortlessly upcoming events happening anywhere in the world, thus making it easier than ever to stay informed.

Social media sites such as Facebook can have both positive as well as negative consequences on the individuals and the society. I believe that such sites are useful and allow us to stay effortlessly connected with friends and people from across the world, who have similar interests. However, as with everything it is essential to understand what the potential dangers are and how it is best to avoid them; especially young users should be given guidance. It is also important to make sure that our social media presence does not come before our real-world life and friends, as this would funnily mean that social media sites are in fact "anti-social sites".