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Has social media alienated us from face-to-face communication or has it improved our social skills? The articles being used to answer this question include, Article C, “Use of Social Media by College Student-Relationships to communicate and self concept” by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitima, Article E, “Analyzing Gen Z’s social media ecosystem”, and Article A by Mellisa Heather, “Teenage Social Media Butterflies May not be Such a Bad Idea”. I think that social media hasn’t alienated face-to-face communication, because social media seems to encourage people to talk more, or talk face-to-face. My three reasons that social media doesn’t alienate face-to-face communication are, it allows us stay connected at all times, promotes human interaction through sharing events, pictures and locations. It also allows us to reconnect, keep, and make new friends regardless of the amount of distance between them.

First off I disagree with Stout's argument because I believe that social media allows us to stay connected at all times with others. This will allow everyone to plan meetings so they can meet up later in person. This is backed up by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitima in Article C, “People use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace to create and sustain relationships with others(Boyd & Ellison, 2007)”. This supports my claim by showing how social media is used to create and sustain relationships with others(friends, family, etc.). Another example of evidence that supports my claim is from Article C by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitima, “For example, Facebook is used primarily by students to maintain relationships with individuals they are acquainted with who live near and far(Quan-House & Young, 2010). Both of

the quotes mentioned show how that social media helps us keep in touch and make new friends. It also helps students communicate with each other for studying, help with homework or to understand a lesson taught in class. It also helps encourage people to meet in person instead of only communicating through the means of social media.

Second of all, social media promotes human interaction through sharing events, pictures and locations. Social media keeps us connected with the world by allowing the people or journalist to post videos, pictures, or feed about an upcoming event or an ongoing event all across the world. Which encourages people to go outside and travel to meet new people by going to major or small events. As according to Document B by Hillary Stout From the New York Times “Hannah Kliot, a 15-year-old ninth grader in Manhattan, who had at last count 1,150 Facebook friends, sent a bunch of texts after school to make plans to meet some friends later at a party. The next day she played in two softball games, texting between innings and games about plans to go to a concert the next weekend.” Hannah Kliot and her friends shared events through facebook for example the Birthday Party and the Concert she was going to have the next weekend. Another example is from Document C , Use of social media by college students: Relationships to communication and self-concept, by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu, “Unlike previous research such as Jiang et al. (2011), this current study found that most college students were not interested in impressing other users. They posted pictures and tell others about what is happening in their lives,...”. This allowed people to observe others lives by checking out what they do, like activities around where they live. Which will encourage people to travel or meet up a certain area, local restaurant or maybe a beach. In conclusion, social media has encouraged human interaction through planning online or through Facebook like Hannah did

to plan her friends birthday party. Also how people share their lives on social media which will encourage travel to foreign areas.

Thirdly, It also allows us to reconnect, keep, and make new friends regardless of the amount of distance between them. Social media has always allowed us to keep connected with old friends, unlike before when we only had house phones and sending letters to friends, the problem was if you moved your phone number would change and your address, which meant you lost all forms of long range communication with them. But now with social media we can communicate with friends or family on the other side of the globe, as according to Document C, “ However, with friends and family living all over the world and having busy lives, communicating via a computer was more convenient option”. The college students preferred using social media instead of talking face-to-face because it seemed more convenient since they were usually rushing or trying to finish up some work. Another example is Document C by Megan Sponcil and Priscilla Gitimu, “ For example, Facebook is used primarily by students to maintain relationships with individuals they are acquainted with who live near and far (Quan-Haase & Young, 2010)”. Though on social media there are cyberbullies and lots of teasing which may lead to depression and suicide in rare cases. As according to Document F, Teenagers on Social Media: Socialization and Self-Esteem, by Clive Anderson Jr., Eknor Johar, Jocelyn C. Key, ““19% of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 had experienced cyber bullying either as a victim or offender.” In conclusion this means that the a lot of college students communicate through social media to stay in touch with others.

In conclusion, social media hasn't alienated us from face-to-face communication, it has actually encouraged human interaction. My three reasons that social media doesn't alienate

face-to-face communication are, it allows us stay connected at all times, promotes human interaction through sharing events, pictures and locations. It also allows us to reconnect, keep, and make new friends regardless of the amount of distance between them.