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The Editor
The Guardian
24 Kings Street
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To The Editor,

Social media is great. Social media is the future. Social media is destroying our children. With an overwhelming amount of information being fed to them daily, the mind of today's youths are becoming crippled with anxiety ~~with~~ the pressure of being #InstaFamous.

want to
What child would ~~rather~~ be doing algebraic equations when Kylie Jenner's latest snapchat story is on the same desk? The obsessive checking and refreshing of social media ~~th~~ diverts ~~children's~~ young people's attention from major priorities, damaging their education and potentially their future. ~~At~~ Abbreviation and slang.

sentence structure -
parallel subordinate.

are becoming such common practices, and will easily be reflected in a student's school work. I worry for a generation where 'fml lol' will be marked A*.

relatability

They come home from school, storm straight upstairs and close their bedroom door. From that moment you have no idea or control over what they're looking at, who they're talking to. Today's young people have sat through countless internet safety assemblies, which they now spend watching with a phone in their hands. Too many kids are caught in the ~~whirlwind~~ whirlwind of excitement that comes with the opportunity to contact new people, that they are oblivious to the dangers ~~which~~ ~~they've~~ they've been reminded of a million times. *weakest point - too*

descriptive / cheesy

positioning myself w/ the teacher

Young people can see what's trending in an instant. 'What new clothes will make me look cool? Skinny? Sexy?'. They see models on their screens daily, posting flawless selfies and OOTDs. Our children aspire to be airbrushed, perfect, with the perfect filter - Hudson or Nashville? They want to take mirror selfies in a bikini with a flat stomach. But instead the mirror will tear them apart. Our children look

ugly, fat, flawed. Their bodies aren't ^{pace} changing
big enough, their cellulite is so
obvious, their skin is red. Their teenage
bodies aren't good enough. Body dysmorphism
is a mental illness where a person sees
their ~~body~~ body differently to how it
looks. The exposure to flawless, photosh-
opped models ~~highers~~ heightens the
expectations. Young people ~~feel~~ have to
look good enough. And when these
expectations aren't real, damage, serious
damage, is done.

gratefully ✓
~~Yours Sincerely~~ Yours Sincerely

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Dear Editor,

anecdotal
As a young person in modern society,
I have to admit that I am dependent
on social media. I fit that stereotype
of scrolling endlessly through Facebook, watching
more YouTube than I would ever
need to and snapchatting all
of my friends funny moments.

But I write this letter with the intention

of arguing for these networks and to justify why mine (and many others) online addiction has it's good points. After all, it is the young people whose education is supposedly being damaged, safety endangered and communication ability destroyed. Right? So to look from the eyes of a young person who does indeed spend what could easily be seen as 'far too much time' on these big, nasty teenage websites can't hurt, I'm sure.

theoretical question

First on the list comes from all those parents who catch us tweeting about ~~Twitter~~ the number one trending topic when we should be revising for that English test we have the next day. That it damages our education. I

Taking into account the opposite viewpoint

will admit that social networking can offer a distraction when doing homework. But you can hardly claim that people have only started getting distracted from homework, that social networking has been the first thing to come along and put our results at risk of falling.

Repetition emphasises point

Could we not just as easily find ourselves reading a book, drawing all over our hands, staring out the window or singing our hearts out to Taylor Swift's new song as we could watching Thatcher's latest YouTube upload? It's not as if homework distractions are a new-age concept, that Mark Zuckerberg and co. created the only things that will ever stop

scribbling

destroying other viewpoints after considering it.

a child from fully focusing on ^{their} ~~his~~ education.

Rhetorical
question

In fact, can social networking not help a child's education? Out there are millions of budding bloggers, writing content and putting it out there for other people to read, enjoy, share and consequently amplify to a larger audience. This can further improve writing skills, provide opportunities for young people that wouldn't have been able to get their opinions out there had it not been for social media.

This leads me on to the point that our ability to communicate that is rapidly being broken away and destroyed by social media, actually, may not be. You ~~and~~ your readers will not be surprised, I'm sure, that I do send texts that include phrases such as 'lol', 'brb', 'lmao' and more. You know what? I even send ~~those~~ 'emojis' and actively over use the crying laughing face. But don't tell me that ~~that~~ means that I can no longer communicate like ~~my~~ my parents, aged at my ~~own~~ age. I have had some of the most ~~of~~ open conversations via social networks. In fact, they make it so much easier to communicate and express feelings that would formerly have been locked up inside to only further damage mental health. And just to reiterate my point, anyone could see that a blogger or a YouTuber who is putting their opinions out there clearly is not losing communication skills but, rather, gaining them.

Repetition of similar points
repeated via word

And finally, is the topic of our safety. For this point I shall first clearly state that grooming cyber-bullying, ~~and~~ exploitation and harassment are massive problems online. But every single one of those is not a new thing. Cyber-bullying evolved from bullying, for example. And all of those are problems. But when the car was first developed did people halt the progression of them as they became easy tools for kidnappings? Should we not equally ^{decrease the} use of public parks as it is all too easy for a paedophile to enter? No-one is talking about limiting the use of cameras when somebody could easily take a picture of someone getting changed across the road. So rather than throw hate at social media and call it dangerous - why not continue to enlighten people of the dangers, teach them to avoid them. All scenarios hold danger, and we need to accept that in the modern world social media can bring about positive social change through opinions that would not have been voiced formerly. They do not just bring all of these supposed negatives.

I hope that you and your readers take something away from this, because for young people social media is another home, a safe haven where other parts of life can be forgotten.

Yours Sincerely,

Too brief!