

Collection of Evidence 4

Performance Assessments to Verify Credit in Writing

Achievement Level: Pass/Proficient

This collection of student writing should be used in conjunction with the VDOE-provided annotation and the *Performance Level Descriptors (2017)* to evaluate collections of evidence and determine if a verified credit in writing is to be awarded.

Social Media

Teens communicate through social media more than they communicate face-to-face; however, technology is no substitute for face-to-face communication. Through this type of interaction, teens waste too much of their time. Therefore, social media does not make social skills better. This paper will discuss how people cannot handle spontaneous social interactions because of their reliance on technology. People don't know how to handle conflicts because so many things happen through some sort of technology. Research articles are divided as to how and to what extent technology is affecting social skills (Bindley). Lastly, people are having more conversations over text than in person, which cannot be a benefit to social skills.

Social media does not *always* help with long distance, even though it makes such contact possible. Nuances of meaning can be lost in social media, which can harm any relationships formed through the internet. Trying to talk to someone and having them take everything negatively leads to ineffective communication: "They don't know how to handle conflicts face to face because so many things happen through some sort of technology" (Ortega quoted in Bindley). The relationship could be ruined because of the lack of understanding, and the attempt to make them understand only makes it worse.

As Zeynep Tufekci has noted, "Social media users are having more conversations with people online than off." Teens these days have an endless number of ways to talk to each other without being in person. They can drop any conversation over social media with just one click. But, in person what will they do? Teens can barely maintain a conversation with each other. They either sit in silence or just ignore each other, if they get bored, because they cannot keep a conversation anymore. To those who are trying to keep a conversation, they do not know how to help or save the conversation. Social media also makes negative communication easier and less likely to be punished. Anyone can bully and threaten others easily and no one takes it seriously that

the other person is legitimately scared. Misunderstandings from poor wording can lead to cyberbullying. The teen who sends a threat may not get in trouble because it does not look wrong in some people's eyes while others view the typed text as terrible.

“Can kids handle spontaneous social interactions?” (Bindley). Most kids have some sort of social media with them, and they are known to get addicted to their devices. Thus, kids are so caught up in their phones or computers that they start to deny themselves social time with friends and family. Many teens stay locked in their rooms playing on games or texting. They do not realize how this affects others and themselves. Their failure to interact results in them being shy and their building up anxiety from not knowing how to act in these situations. When they try to start or keep a conversation, they may stutter or fidget with things because they don't understand or have the simple knowledge of what to do.

In conclusion, social media has harmed people and teens overall. Yes, it has some good effects, but for many users of this technology, social media is bad for social skills. It helps people talk to each other over distance but ruins face to face encounters. Too much of this screen time leads to eye problems in life and hand issues. Social media also leads to competition in looks. Cyberbullying, moreover, is the worst outcome from social media. Predators are also a threat because they can find a person by social media because the person lacks the knowledge of how to keep some things private. Kids getting ahold of certain apps that share their location with older men or women, can lead to kidnapping. But in case of these emergencies there are trackers on phones to help find them. Social media also means little face-to-face communication from others in the real world. Lack of social interaction is a huge problem, leading to anxiety in the public. Avoiding the public will not eliminate the need to interact with others and such, avoidance ultimately leads to more problems than it leads to benefits.

Becoming a Social Worker

Without social workers, there would be a dramatic rise in people with anxiety or mental issues because of the lack of services offered to others. Not only does the social worker communicate but also these people assist children who have been harmed. They find better homes for them. Social workers talk to and organize groups of people to discuss personal issues. They listen to a people's problems, some physical and some mental. They discuss ways to relax or calm down in order to help their patients improve their situations, if those circumstances are leading to negative feelings or behaviors, Therefore, many argue that social work must be a calling, not a job. Social workers must invest themselves in their clients. Some must take action to move someone out of a situation into a better life to where its a safer environment. Those decisive moments can be highly stressful or elating, depending on the circumstances.

Education

The educational requirements to become a social worker can be complex. All are required to have a bachelor's degree in three years or more and earn a license or certification. Different types of social workers have different levels of expertise. Some others according to the occupational outlook handbook, "The types of skills you would have to have naturally are emotional skills, interpersonal, organization, and problem solving skills" (BLS).

Workplace trends

Most jobs are leaning toward globalization and more technology, social workers have the choice to be both - more traveled and more digital. To have the personal choice to decide to travel place to place or stay in one area is excellent for cultural experience, But most social workers stay in one public area: " Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 16 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster average for all occupations " (BLS). Therefore, are the more people

wanting and learning how to become social workers and these professionals are having a greater impact on the world. Mentally troubled discuss can have their emotional problems addressed by a professional.

Salary possibilities

Going into this field of work makes many people change their minds because of the annual pay:

“ The median annual wage for social workers was \$47,980 in May 2017 “(BLS). The pay should not determine if one makes the choice of becoming a social worker, but it does. Can one be happy with this job for possibly the rest of his/her life is the real question? But the pay will rise in years coming and if one achieves a higher level in this field he/she will be paid more.

Innovation

Anyone who takes care of others needs are emotional health helpers. Everyone should be open for new therapies and help in certain ways. Emotional intelligence is where one person can understand and feel what the person in need is feeling. Teachers and people who are around teens most of the time are trying to understand and learn how to get smarter to try and help them to make school easier instead of being scared to talk to others and fall behind because of family issues happening at the time. Bullying also puts pressure on teens through high school. Social activities and being able to talk to someone who understands may prevent more fights or bad actions. Social workers initiate these tasks.

Summery

Being a social worker is an amazing career choice. If one is naturally good at helping people in an emotional state that's even better because one will already have much knowledge. Starting to look deeper into the field in highschool to make sure one wants to continue through life as a social worker is smart, and if the low pay is not problematic, then one should consider it. There are colleges that

teach for this type of career. Becoming a social worker benefits both worker and patient. However, becoming a social worker comes with some risks. To have strangers coming in to who occasionally anger issues may lead to tantrums or emotional breakdowns; such professionals must be able to be calm in these situations and know how to handle the problem in a professional manner. “ Summary: Social workers.” U.S Bureau of labor Statistics, 11 July 2018 (BLS).

Vaccinations Anyone? Or Everyone?

In an editorial from *The Houston Chronicle* in 2018, we can read the following: “Imagine walking into the restroom at a neighborhood restaurant and seeing a new sign hung under the usual ‘Employees must wash hands’ that reads: ‘unless it violates personal beliefs.’ You’d probably head straight for the exit, and maybe even call the health inspector along the way.”¹ Such a statement seems ludicrous because of course all physical and mental health is the most important thing, and people should make that their first priority. Sickesses can grow so strong that they can kill thousands. Food industries are a huge hazard and a risk to people’s health. Washing hands cannot always fight off dangerous infections and illnesses. Vaccinations are a huge reason most people stay protected, but what about the people who don’t believe in the need for vaccinating any longer? Regardless of the status quo, we should all still be vaccinating. Parents aren’t putting their children first if they do not place vaccinations as a high priority.

According to the NBC News, “Over 172 child deaths have occurred in 2017 thru 2018.... Approximately 80 percent of these deaths occurred in children who had not received a flu vaccination this season.”² Whether the vaccination is for flu or chickenpox is of little relevance! The importance lies in the fact that children can die from either one, and, therefore, they deserve the right of vaccination. Children are not fully protected from dangerous viruses because they do not have a strong immune system. At such young ages parents should have to get their children vaccinated to possibly save their child’s life and many others. Elementary schools and kindergartens are factories, because children like to put everything in their mouths and feel the need to touch everything and everyone. Buying five things of Germ-X and bacterial wipes is good, but it won’t always help. In a recent *Washington Post* article, it was reported, “Texas can’t wait for a measles outbreak to remind us the importance of vaccinations.”³

The importance of vaccinations aren't taken seriously today. When an outbreak occurs parents blame the schools for having sick kids attend. If parents got their kids vaccinated there would be less sickness going around. The more kids with vaccinations the greater the barrier to the illnesses, so it also helps other students be protected. If parents were required to get their kids vaccinated, fewer deaths would happen during any outbreak of illness.

In conclusion, vaccinations should be required for every child's health and for everyone else's health around them. But, if they are not getting vaccinations, kids should be kept home to lessen the percent of kids getting sick.

Please note that hyperlinks provided by the student as part of the original writing sample may no longer work.

Notes

¹ "It's Unwise to Avoid Immunization [Editorial]." *HoustonChronicle.com*, Houston Chronicle, 15 June 2018, www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/It-s-unwise-to-avoid-immunization-Editorial-12995795.php.

² "7 Vaccine Myths Debunked by Doctors." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 2015, www.nbcnews.com/storyline/measles-outbreak/7-vaccine-myths-debunked-doctors-n303211.

³ Lardieri, Alexa. "More U.S. Children Not Getting Vaccines." *U.S. News & World Report*, www.usnews.com/news/health-care-news/articles/2018-10-11/more-us-children-not-getting-vaccines.