

## Significance of digital profiles on social media

Examine the role of social media platforms in shaping public perceptions of individuals in the modern world.

Type: Comprehension

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Album: Social Media

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### Student Answer

1) AQ

Both Christine Rosen and Joanne Toscano argue that the timeless human desire for attention is now degenerating into an obsessive self-absorption which is fuelled by the new media. What is your view, and to what extent is it challenged or confirmed by their arguments?

#### Instruction

Requirements of the Question:

1. Students need to identify the view why we are now more self-centered and less caring towards others and why this mentality is created by the society and why this view is agreed or challenged by the authors.

2. To develop the flow of this manner of answering, students must derive the argument in this AQ in this way:

2.1 To identify the view from the passage that you would like to confirm or challenge your view.

2.2 Develop your view and the reasoning.

2.3 Support with an example that will support your view.

#### Structure of Writing

1. Introduction

State that your views on why we are now more self-absorbed and are caused by the influence of social media may be agreed or rebutted by the two authors.

2. Main Body

Point 1:

1.1 What is your view and what is your reason

1.2 Support with an example

1.3 Quote the view from the passage why it confirms or challenge your view.

1.4 Why the writer agrees or disagrees with you view

1.5 linking sentence

Point 2 and Point 3

Develop the paragraph of argument the same as point 1

Conclusion

Summarize your view and state the main reason why your views are confirmed or challenged by the authors.

Points to take note of:

1. Students are to write three points, either two points on why the students are confirmed or challenged by the authors and the other point the other way.

**Answer**

-- none --

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**Tutor Answer**

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## **Answer**

Introduction

It is my view that we are now more self-absorbed and this mentality is caused by the influence of social media may be agreed or rebutted by the two authors.

Main Body

Point 1

It is my belief that the individuals in our modern society has a strong desire to be known and liked by others know to them or not know to them. The modern individuals desire to be popular and famous as there is extensive commercial exploitation if they are popular and well-known. We can see how Kim Kardashian gains her popularity through diverse social media to raise her profile and uses it to merchandise her product, the controversial shapewear Kimono. Her lack of consideration for cultural sensitivity of the Japanese over the use of the name of the Japanese cultural clothes has shown why she is self-absorbed in her popularity in the platform of social media. We desire for such popularity as it is the human nature to gain attention and be favoured as it raises the status of the individuals. The popularity of Instagram, Facebook and other forms of social media justify our lust for vanity and need for attention and has created a mindset that we are only represented by our image in the social media. This is confirmed by Christine Rosen as she says that we have this 'timeless human desire for attention that emerges as the dominant theme of these vast virtual galleries' as we need painting to showcase our beauty for the accolade of our peers and this is now portrayed in our virtual world.

Point 2

Our desire for attention has also turned us into beings who are concerned only about superficial popularity and absorbed into a world that only cares about whether we are liked by others or not, ignoring how we

feel towards other. We neglect the significance of relationship and see relationship about how are liked by others and not on how we relate to others. Our world is now self-centered around the notion that we are of great significance and how others revolve around us. We are now superficially measured by the likes and related conversation with others and what are our images in the society. Our significance is only determined by how the social media like Facebook present our images that are specially crafted with likes and post of what we do without physically relating to the real friends we have. All these superficial likes and posts of our life become the identity we create and set our status in society. Christine Rosen will also agree to my view as she has stated that 'people want to sell themselves and use the number of 'friends' they collect as a measurement of status'. This will lead to a self-absorbed thinking to believe that our status or identify is the one created by the social media.

### Point 3

However, I also share the view that we cannot live in our self-absorbed world which is based on the status provided by social media. Human beings are social being and need to interact to make relationship with others which is of great significance to us. This is especially true in our modern society as we have a lot of leisure and entertainment to consume and all these activities will establish our relationship with others. Starbucks, Golden Village and the list of food and beverage outlets are our favourite haunts that we go with friends to establish our relationship. According to [thesmartlocal.com.sg](http://thesmartlocal.com.sg), there are as many as thirteen leisure activities that Singaporeans can take part to make lives interesting and more connected with others. However, Joanne Toscano sees it differently as she shares the view that she is also hooked on 'social networking' which get her addicted to 'waiting for responses' for her update with her friends. Furthermore, she also shares the view that 'social networking' is perfect for families separated by distance or those with health issues'. She does challenge my proposition that we cannot live in a virtual world that will make us self-absorbed.

### Conclusion

In retrospect, it is true that we crave for attention and allow the social media to become an instrument to make us self-absorbed in our own virtual world. However, we are social beings too and need companions to feel real and identified but not self-absorbed in our beliefs and thinking. The main factor to deter us from self-absorption depends on how we live our lives and our society is structured.

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