

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

Date: 13 Dec 2019

Name: Zen Ee

Album: Social Media

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

With the rising popularity of social media, more people are taking to that platform to update their status, gain followers, which makes them feel popular and good about themselves. This has caused people to become more self-absorbed. Both Christine Rosen and Joanne Toscano both assert that social media is causing people to become more self-absorbed. I agree to a large extent that social media has fueled the inner human desire to be watched by public, leading to a rise in narcissism.

Firstly, social media is a platform where users get to create profiles about themselves, but the information posted may be false, in order to gain followers. For instance, any user can claim that he is a professional in finance, and gain the trust of his followers. Pictures posted online of scenery, and people can be a product after endless editing and beautifying, hence not genuine. All these can be done just to gain attention. As mentioned by Rosen, social networking sites are gatherings of individuals whose personal boastings and musings are not necessarily trustworthy. I agree with this point of view, hence social media has fueled human's obsessive self-absorption since it is a convenient media for any anonymous user to post anything just for attention.

Furthermore, people are taking to social media to promote everything about themselves. Users post every activity they are doing and thoughts they are having. Toscano asserts the view that we have become so narcissistic that we do not have time to socialise in reality but have time to post every whereabouts, every thought, accomplishment and purchase. Thus, social media has caused people to become self-centered.

However, the new media platform has been made used of to gain people's attention towards urgent global problems. For instance, issues like women's rights, climate change and racial equality has been brought to spotlight due to the speed of social media. This view is challenged by Toscano as she asserts that people should emerge from the self-absorbed cyber worlds and rejoin the human race. I feel that people can still be updated and making relevant contributions to the human race on social media.

All in all, social media is a platform which provides profiles of people with questionable credibility, a convenient avenue of promoting oneself but can be used to promote real-life issues as well, that is for the better good of mankind. Nonetheless, narcissism is still a serious problem exacerbated by the rise of social media, hence I agree to a large extent that obsessive self-absorption is brought about by the new media.

Tutor 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

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, 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.
