

Assignment: Write an essay arguing for or against the following statement: Technology has made it harder for humans to form close relationships with each other. Use evidence from each text to support your position.

Introduction:

Have you ever noticed that people nowadays are more interested in their phones than people around them? As technology continues to advance, it has dramatically changed the way we interact with each other. While some argue that technology has made it easier for humans to form close relationships, others believe it has made it harder. In this essay, I will argue that technology has made it harder for humans to form close relationships with each other by creating physical barriers, encouraging avoidance of meaningful conversations, and promoting a culture of distraction.

Body Paragraph 1:

Technology creates a physical barrier between people, making it difficult to build emotional connections. In a study by Przybylski and Weinstein, researchers found that people who used their phones during social interactions reported lower levels of closeness and trust than those who did not use their phones (237). Additionally, technology can become a substitute for face-to-face interactions, leading to a decrease in meaningful conversations and a lack of social skills (Turkle 181). When people are focused on their phones or other devices, they are less likely to engage in meaningful conversations or to pay attention to the people around them. This can lead to a lack of emotional connection and trust, which are important for building close relationships.

Body Paragraph 2:

Technology has also made it easier for people to avoid meaningful conversations and to disengage from difficult situations. In a study by Sundar et al., researchers found that people who used their phones during a conversation reported feeling less empathy and connection with the other person than those who did not (96). Moreover, technology allows people to hide behind screens and to avoid confrontation or disagreement, which can hinder the development of authentic relationships (Turkle 189). When people use technology to avoid difficult conversations or disengage from challenging situations, they miss opportunities to build authentic relationships. This can lead to isolation and disconnection from others, impacting mental health and well-being.

Counterargument:

Some people argue that technology has made it easier for humans to form close relationships with each other. For example, social media allows people to connect with others who share similar interests and to maintain long-distance relationships (Pew Research Center). Additionally, technology can facilitate communication in certain situations, such as in the case of individuals with hearing or speech impairments (Vignali et al. 3). While it is true that technology can provide opportunities for connection, it is important to recognize that it also comes with limitations and potential drawbacks. Social media can create a false sense of connection, and individuals with hearing or speech impairments still face challenges related to social interaction that technology cannot fully address.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the impact of technology on human relationships is complex, but the evidence suggests that it has made it harder for humans to form close relationships with each other. Technology creates physical barriers, encourages avoiding difficult conversations, and promotes a culture of distraction. As we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by technology, we must find a balance between its benefits and potential drawbacks. By prioritizing face-to-face interactions, and fostering empathy and understanding.

Works Cited:

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