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Handling a Research Assignment

When thinking of reading and writing for research my mind instantly goes to "Well what's it about?" I hate doing things that are boring because I feel like the work I produce has no personality and comes off super monotone. Research is easy, search up the topic and find legitimate sites or books and just put together all the pieces from them that support your thesis. The topic is what can really make it tricky for me. But once I selected the question "Does technology bring people closer together or drive them apart?" my nerves eased up because it's a topic I'm familiar with.

During my research the question of whether or not it's ethical for teens to have social media really stood out to me. I don't know. I guess I made friends because of it and changed my style a bit but I'm not friends with anyone from high school now and I could've just as easily seen the looks I wanted to replicate in a magazine. Actually my longest and most meaningful friendship is from middle school, before I even had social media. I value the times when we could only communicate at school and occasionally through our parents phones. Relationships were more meaningful back then. I hope I can learn more about in time through more studies

If you don't know how to verify the legitimacy of a site, research can become difficult. Having access to a school library can easily resolve that issue. Using the BMCC library for research was quite simple. I just searched up key words like "technology" or "social media" and scrolled from there. I didn't notice any differences between academic one search and the opposing viewpoints database, they appeared to be structured the same way. The sources provided by the BMCC library were very understandable and were always relevant to the keywords and questions I asked.

The MLA format is nice to use because it looks neater and keeps the writing easier to understand for the reader. I tried not to overthink it so I didn't use any other sources to check the format but I believe I used it correctly. I understand that standard formats for quoting from sources are necessary to credit the original authors and avoid plagiarism.

From my project I learned that recent publishers believe social media is beneficial to adolescents which is quite different from what I heard as a child. Seeing this dramatic change in popularity caught me off guard because I was always taught that the internet was dangerous but today's youth consider it crucial to their identity. It was a challenge to get past because the articles in favor of social media are much more recent than the ones against it. I enjoyed seeing both sides & maintaining an open mind though it all. To anyone taking this class after me, good luck & pick the side you agree with. not the one you think sounds better.