

Analyzing Two Opposing Arguments About Teens Use of Social Media (RI 8.8 & 8.9)

Your Learning Task: Read each of the argument handouts, Argument 1: Five ways social media can be good for teens and Argument 2: 5 Ways Social Media Affects Teen Mental Health. Each article makes an argument about the use of social media by teenagers, one warning of the dangers and one explaining the benefits. After reading each, answer the questions below.

1. **BEFORE READING!** Turn the title of the article into a question. Write that question below.

| Argument 1: Five ways social media can be good for teens | Argument 2: 5 Ways Social Media Affects Teen Mental Health |
|--|--|
| | |

2. What is the **thesis** of each article? **HINT:** **Your thesis statement is the answer to the question.**

| Argument 1: Five ways social media can be good for teens | Argument 2: 5 Ways Social Media Affects Teen Mental Health |
|--|--|
| | |

3. What are the **five claims** made by the authors of *Argument 1: Five ways social media can be good for teens*? Fill in the chart below with your findings. **Write in FULL SENTENCES!**

| Claims # | The Claim (Reasons to support the underlying thesis of the article) |
|----------|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |

4. What are the **five claims** made by the authors of *Argument 2: 5 Ways Social Media Affects Teen Mental Health*? Fill in the chart below with your findings. **Write in FULL SENTENCES.**

| Claims # | The Claim (Reasons to support the underlying thesis of the article) |
|----------|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |

5. Which evidence **best** supports the claim that **social media can be good** for teens?
HINT: Think about the difference between fact and opinion.
- “As kids begin to use tools such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and even YouTube in earnest, they’re learning the responsibility that comes with the power to broadcast to the world.”
 - “For a few years, many teens have been saying that social media — despite its flaws — is mostly positive.”
 - “While heavy social media use can isolate kids, a study conducted by Griffith University and the University of Queensland in Australia found that although American teens have fewer friends than their historical counterparts, they are less lonely than teens in past decades.”
6. Which evidence **best** supports the claim that **social media can be harmful** to teens?
- “...One British study published in the *Journal of Youth Studies* surveyed 900 teens between the ages of 12 and 15 about their social media use and its impact on sleep. What they found was that one-fifth of the teens said they “almost always” wake up during the night and log in to social media.”
 - “Many teens spend so much time online checking statuses and likes that they may forget to interact with the people right in front of them.”
 - “Not only do they feel pressure to respond quickly online, but they also feel pressure to have perfect photos and well-written posts, all of which can cause a great deal of anxiety.”
7. Regardless of your opinion about social media use by teenagers, which argument (1 or 2) did you find most convincing? Explain your reasoning in 3 or more sentences.

I found argument...most convincing because...