

ASSIGNMENT ONE: RESPONSE TO READING; WRITING TO PERSUADE/ARGUE

ESSAY GUIDE

TITLE: Is Social Media Harmful to Teenagers?

- **The Guardian** 'Bedtime Social Media use may be harming UK teenagers'
- **Social Media & Teens:** how does social media affect teenagers' mental health?

THINK about your response to the essay question. Do you agree or disagree with it? Note down at least 3 reasons why.

HIGHLIGHT some key facts, statistics and interesting quotations in the article that you can use in your essay.

Essay **purpose and audience**

- **Article for young people** in a school/college magazine in which you discuss the article and give your own opinion
- **A blog** in which you discuss the article and give your own opinion
- **A letter to your MP** in which you discuss the article and give your own opinion

Remember that what you choose should determine the style and format of what you write.

INTRODUCTION

YOU Begin with a bit about yourself that links to the title and the main theme of the article

THE ARTICLE Introduce the main point of the article

AN EXAMPLE of how this could look:

It seems that I am a Cause For Concern. Rather than spending my time wandering the streets, getting into trouble, I prefer to stay indoors most evenings, watching TV, streaming films and...catching up with what's happening on my social media feeds. However, this is a serious problem, according to a number of newspaper articles. A recent one in The Guardian highlights mental health issues, obesity, poor academic results and sleep deprivation amongst teenagers - all effects of spending too much time on social media.

Next Paragraph

Select one clear fact or statistic from the article and a short quotation that supports it.

EG: *A study by scientists at Glasgow University used data from nearly 12,000 children aged 13-15 across the UK, found that social media was linked to sleep deprivation and poorer sleep quality.*

Now give your opinion and your own experience of this.

Following Paragraphs (at least 2)

Add further findings and quotations, with your thoughts about them

EG: difference found between boys and girls

Holly Scott's findings

Bob Patton's findings

Concluding paragraphs

Counter-point 'Others question these findings....on the other hand...However...

EG: Andrew Przybylski

You – What should be done about this? What is your own experience? Is social media affecting your sleep, making you anxious, wasting your time? Is it just young people? You could do some (quick) research of your own by asking teachers, friends and family and summarising it here.

Finish by summing up your own view on this.