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EWRT 2 – Essay 2

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Virtual World vs. Real World

double
space
no bold

specific

Technology has provided people the means to do things that would otherwise be impossible. Nowadays, people spend much time on online communities to network with virtual friends and play role plays. The popularity of social networking websites, such as Facebook, has grown rapidly in the past two years. According to Facebook's statistics of its number of users in different nations around the world, unsurprisingly, the United States is by far the most popular single country, though it only accounts for around 30% of Facebook's total audiences (Jason Kincaid). Simply put, Facebook is, as the name states, a book of faces. It is an online library with names, photos and other information about people you know, would like to know in the future or have known in the past. The profound reason behind the popularity of Facebook is its design of features to fulfill people's need and desires in real life, including the features of instant message, sharing pictures and making friends. Facebook users are mirrors of the rest of the population, which reflect the human nature of the addiction to nosiness, the competition for popularity and the need for social interaction in American society.

last
name
only

great
start!

Not only on Facebook, but also in reality, people cannot help themselves from the desire of knowing what other people are up to, including those people they don't know. People all have things they would rather keep to themselves or only share with the special people in their lives; therefore, privacy is important. However, on Facebook, information goes public

interesting!

good

when one publishes something on his/her wall. This non-private feature of Facebook turns it into an ultimate "friends being nosy" tool. Facebook users scour the profiles of other people since they want to know their business. People hunt through friends' walls looking for any scrap of information. Facebook is one's personal reality show and his/her friends are the stars, which allow people to be judgmental at any time. Similarly, in reality, people are nosy about neighbors and friends, especially famous and rich people. For example, fashion magazines usually include gossips of Hollywood stars or other famous people's private affairs to attract more readers. One of the hidden reasons behind nosey people have to do with self-doubt, self-worth issues, fear of not feeling interesting enough for their own lives, and they believe it's more exciting to get into others' business than their own. Nowadays, even though life has become so hectic, and even people do not have enough time to mind their own business, people do have the time to look into others' lives. To sum up, Facebook users are nosy about others' business, and people enjoy stars' gossips, both actions are due to the emptiness, dullness in their own lives.

Transition
People compete with each other on Facebook to be famous and popular, which is the same in real life. On Facebook, users update their daily status, add lots of photos and other unique contents, and make comments on others' walls. These are several ways which users can try to draw others' attention, and to make their Facebook pages popular and famous. Even though the popularity on Facebook cannot bring the users any true money or power, people still work hard and want other users to know and like them. In the American society, there are some people who want to be famous, especially when the fame along brings money, reorganization, invites to great parties, respect and love. According to Jib Fowles's "Fifteen

perhaps compare to gossip magazines

interesting

interesting! Have we always had dull lives? Is there something new in this generation?

desire for fame?

good - is this not true in other cultures?

to adults?

Basic Appeals," "The desire to exhibit ourselves in such a way as to make others look at us is a primitive, insuppressible instinct." In other words, the need for attention can be served by fame and popularity. It is an innate human feeling ^{want to?} to be popular, and one can find many people spend ^{ing} their entire lives in one form or another seeking popularity, from the movie stars to the rock stars to the sports figure, politicians and businessmen, and the world is full of people who ^d dedicate their whole life to popularity. For instance, there is a long line of people who wait to sign up to participate in TV shows such as "American Idol," "America's Next Top Model," "America's Got Talent." These TV shows are able to attract many participants because it is a way to become famous. For the people who want to be popular and famous, they find the true meaning for their existence as human beings. They love to be loved by thousands of people to fulfill their lack of self-confidence.

Analyze so why important how than ever?

yes!

great!

Transition?

good!

Facebook creates an illusion of making numerous virtual friends to fulfill the need of interaction with one another and the emptiness in human existence in Americans' busy lives. Maggie Shiels states in "How many friends do you need?" "According to statistics from Facebook, in the world of social networking, the average number of friends that a person needs is 120, and by the way, Facebook itself has just topped to 200 people." Facebook users will say yes almost every time they receive friend requests from others. In other words, when online, people don't set standards while making friends as they do in real lives since they want their friend count to be sky-high. The definition of friend is a person whom you knows, likes and trusts, and the person who will always help you when you are in trouble. However, here comes the question: how many of the 200 Facebook friends will you have a face to face conversation and invite to your house? The answer may be less than 30. Why do people make so many

will it don't em?

good point

friends even though these friends are just decorations on their Facebook pages? From one point of view, more friends indicate that one is not isolated. Facebook's feature of adding unlimited amount of friends allow ^s it to create an illusion for its users to feel connected to the society, and to satisfy the lack of social interaction in Americans' real lives. In the past several decades, Americans' life styles have changed dramatically, including the increases in hours of work per capita and the rise of working home population due to advanced technology, which have created the notion that there is less time available to pursue social interaction. Since social interaction is a basic need for a human being, instead of spend ^{ing} time on real life to make friends, ^{the} internet becomes a cheaper and faster tool to stay connected with old friends and discover new friends. Facebook seems to be an alternative way to being connected, but it only provides temporary comfort online to avoid the feeling of isolation in real life.

good
great!

great

It is human nature to have the desire of knowing other people's business, including gossips, scandals, and even daily schedules. Also, people need others' love to prove their existences in this world ^{is} ~~are~~ meaningful. Since people are [?] live in communities, social interaction is necessary to survive. In the past, people struggled in real life to fulfill the desires of nosy, popular and connected; however, nowadays, ^{the} internet creates the virtual world, which ^{has} ~~becomes~~ an alternative choice for people to pursue their needs more easily than the real world. Facebook, therefore, becomes the tool to satisfy people's needs but, at the same time, also reflects the American society.

being?
has
yes!

Works Cited

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Kincaid, Jason. "Mapping Facebook's Popularity Around The World." TechCrunch. 4 (2009): 28. Web. 1st November 2009.

Shiels, Maggie. "How many friends do you need?" BBC NEWS. 9th April 2009. Web. 3 November 2009.

I've now seen we must italicize only for titles otherwise it could be hyperlinked

Excellent!
Clear organization and
insightful analysis exhibiting
a nice understanding of
Semiotics.
Great work!