

## Academic Argument about Social Media

**Objective:** Compose a short paper that asserts a unique, specific way that one social media platform has affected the life of UAB freshmen and argues for how students should use the platform to maximize its benefits and minimize harms.

### Steps:

1. Participate in class by reading about and discussing the impacts of social media on:
  - a. Activism/social justice
  - b. Politics
  - c. Entertainment media
  - d. Brain development
  - e. Relationships
  - f. Jobs/the economy
  - g. Other
2. Participate in class to:
  - a. Vote on topics/platforms you want to study
  - b. Develop and execute primary research activities that uncover data about UAB students and their social media use
  - c. Read assigned academic articles
  - d. Analyze primary research data
  - e. Synthesize information from primary and secondary research to develop a working thesis with your group
3. Conduct your own research to find additional evidence, examples, and suggestions
4. Compose a thesis that asserts how one social media platform has affected the life of UAB freshman and that argues for how students should use the platform to maximize benefits and minimize harms
5. Write an essay that uses evidence from your sources to support your thesis.

**Requirements:** A 3-5 page essay that includes:

- A thesis that asserts how one social media platform has affected the life of UAB freshman and that argues for how students should use the platform to maximize benefits and minimize harms
- Body paragraphs that support your thesis using evidence from your research
- An introduction and conclusion
- A counterargument and rebuttal
- Well organized body paragraphs
- MLA or APA formatting
- A works cited page

### Due Dates, Deliverables, and Values

March 8: Argument Proposal Due on Canvas at 11:59pm (20 points of total grade)

March 22: First Draft of Argument due on Canvas at 11:59pm (40 points of total grade, MLA/APA not graded on this draft)

April 5: Second Draft of Argument due on Canvas at 11:59pm (40 points of total grade)

April 21: Final Draft due on Canvas at 11:59pm (40 points of total grade)