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<div align="center">Report on Research In Progress</div>

For my Research Critical Analysis, I decided to research the significance of social media on self-perception and persona. My stance on the issue was that social media negatively impacts the self-perception of how people display themselves online and my 3 topics were social comparisons, social anxiety, and unrealistic expectations. Finding sources to refute my stance were difficult because there aren't many positive outcomes when it pertains to the impact social media has on the mind. I used 3 different sources for each of my topics. For the effect of social comparisons. I used (Wells, Seetharaman, Horwitz, Gallinari, and Dove) to support my claim that when people compare themselves to others "superior" to them, it lowers their self-worth and makes them feel insecure about themselves. For my next topic surrounding social anxiety, I used, (Jiang, Ngien, Richards, and Alkis, Kadirhan, Sat). This supported my stance by adding reasoning to how the use of social media and people lacking self-esteem feel alienated around others and lack social skills out in the real world and online because they feel they're being judged by others. Lastly, my last topic was unrealistic expectations which I went into depth more on the meaning used sources such as, (Manago, Turkle, and Stegner) to support my claim that unrealistic expectations boost one's ego allowing their social avatar to be perceived as something they're not for online validation. Social media allows people to mold into a fantasy they can't portray in the real world.

Uncertain Source

One of the sources I plan on using but initially unsure about was written by Elizabeth Gallinari, titled, *"Likes" for Self-Love? The Effects of Social Media On Self-Perception*. The

reason I am uncertain about this source is because towards the end of her discussion Gallinair mentioned that social media can also motivate people and allow them to take the envy they gain from other's lifestyles and input that into their own. I am uncertain because I don't know if I can use that as a rebuttal claim that social media also uplifts people to strive for better through motivation of another person's life. If people have to rely on someone else to influence them to do greater things, they're not thinking for themselves social media is, but also people take that advice or motivation from others and become even better than there, so it is an even tradeoff. I couldn't really tell her position from reading the article, but it was unbiased.

Excluded Source

One of the sources that I have found while conducting my research but excluded from my paper was a scholarly article written by, Jan Muqaddas, Soomro Anwwer Sanobia, and Ahmad Nawaz who wrote the article, *Impact of Social Media on Self-Esteem*. The reason I excluded this source was because my topics revolved around social comparisons, social anxiety, and unrealistic expectations. Although self-esteem is a trait that is carried with the way people perceive themselves this text had little to no correlation to the use of media and social comparisons. The rest of my topics didn't apply to the text since the article was very specific on the type of impact. So instead of using that text to further improve my topic on social comparisons, I used an article that studied the use of social comparisons, how social comparisons connect with low-self esteem and the study shows the negative impact that it has on the way people perceive themselves through a survey study. If the source by Jan Muqaddas, Soomro Anwwer Sanobia, and Ahmad Nawaz had a correlation of self-esteem and social comparisons, it would've been a great article to use but it mainly talked about the impact of high and low-self esteem on people and their reactions online.

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What's Missing?

What's missing in my research analysis is a clear and defensive counter claim that is able to be backed up with evidence to correlate with. I struggle to find evidence about the positive effects that social media has on self-perception that I used a specific group of people to categorize into my essay. I need to find a clear and reasonable piece of information that can tie back to my thesis statement and my question so I can then use the refuting evidence to connect back to my stance and reasonable respond to the refute. I also feel what's missing is the use of evidence for my 3rd topic on unrealistic expectations. Unrealistic expectations is very broad and I could be generalized easily so I have to narrow it down and find relevant evidence that not only explains one part of my thesis but also connect back to how it affects how people perceive themselves through the use of media.