**Student, you make good arguments about the danger of social media and technological advances, and I like how you pull specific quotes from the movie. Good supporting evidence. But instead of making broad generalizations like “Teens get depressed,” give more context to those examples from the documentary AND make a point not just about WHAT the movie is saying but HOW—was the documentary effective? Strong? Weak? This is a paper not just about the points presented but about the documentary that presented them. For example: “*Growing Up Online* showed examples of teens getting depressed when they were bullied online. For example… The documentary was trying to show…. This was a strong/weak argument because…. The perspective was biased/accurate because….” I think that will clarify what your thesis is also, which right now is a little muddled.**

**In a nutshell, connect the documentary more to your arguments and base your thesis on that connection.**

Student name

Timeline: Growing Up Online

Date

Trapped in the Freedom of Social Media

Everyone knows that smoking cigarettes can cause many serious health problems including cancer, yet hundreds of millions of people still chose to smoke. Although aware of the warnings, smokers consistently choose instant pleasure over potential pain. The power of addiction is terrifying, and can literally be seen everywhere in today’s society. Thanks to new technology, social media now controls this generation. Although enjoyable and practical for many reasons, social media can be addicting and dangerous when misused. Cyber bulling, destroyed relationships, and loss of privacy, are just a few of the consequences caused when social media is abused.

Checking Facebook three hours a day for friend requests or new notifications will not give you cancer**.** However, the damage caused by the irresponsible use of social media can be just as harmful as any physical disease. Most social media outlets provide a convenient way to stay in touch with family and friends. Pictures, status updates, and instant messaging make it easy for loved ones to be a part of someone’s life even if they live halfway across the world. Unfortunately, this technological miracle can also be a technological disaster. The internet and social media allow users to say what they want, to who they want, when they want. This kind of freedom has created an environment ideal for bullying. In the documentary, “Growing Up Online,” one girl expressed that “you can be more crazy online because no is watching.” Teens feel free to degrade and name call others without any fear of punishment. As a result, many teens become depressed and some have even gone as far to take their own life. Taunting and humiliating others online is only seen as game because “it’s completely different, you can do whatever you want and no one can do anything because you’re at your house, they’re at their house…its different” (Growing Up Online). Cyber Bullying can be prevented the more parents become aware and involved in their children’s use of social media. Regardless of what methods parents decide to use in order to monitor their children’s activity, something must be done to stop online abuse.

Thirty years ago our parents as kids played with sticks and rocks. Today, it is not surprising to see a five year old playing games on an iPad. Parenting techniques have obviously changed and for most parents, that’s a lesson learned. Sitting down as a family for dinner and having a wholesome conversation have become things of the past. Social media has eliminated personal interaction and in turn destroyed opportunities to develop and strengthen relationships. One mom said the “loss of open communication is the single most painful part of being a parent” (Growing Up Online). Social media has disconnected parents from their children and destroyed many relationships. As teens engage in the misuse of social media they become shut off to the world and people around them. Sadly, their virtual world becomes more important than the one they actually live in. On the internet kids can feel like they are in a comfort zone, a place where it is “nice to know someone is listening” (Growing Up Online). At any time during the day there is always an “active listener” which makes online chatting “seductive” (Growing Up Online). Some teens admit that it is “better than talking to the people in my life” (Growing Up Online).

Putting the computer in an open and shared family room is different than asking for a Facebook Password.

Conclusion: The internet and social media allow us Society has become trapped by the addiction of social media.

Re-state Thesis, call to action: Teaching appropriate behavior to those who use social media is essential to .