Essay #1: Social Media and the Pursuit of One’s Self

Do you ever suspect people are posting images on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) that show them in a one-dimensional way, to make others think they are perfect, with a perfect life? Is your social media presence an accurate depiction of who you are in real life? Is your “selfie” really you? Does it matter?

In this essay, consider your own social media presence. Does your social media persona match your in-person presence? Using your own experiences as support, write an essay on whether or not social media allows individuals to become more or less themselves.

Your essay should also address why your opinion matters. Who cares if we are one person online and another in real life? What are the consequences, positive or negative, of having two different selves?

Writing Goals:

Your essay should have a thesis statement that clearly states your stance on whether social media helps or hinders our pursuit of selfhood and, most importantly, why you think your opinion matters. Remember: you’re writing a thesis statement, not a thesis sentence. Your thesis statement should be 1-2 sentences at the end of your introductory paragraph.

Write from the “I” position in order to practice speaking clearly and coherently from your unique perspective. Remember: support your views with concrete details from your own experience.

Formatting:

You do not need to use any outside sources for this paper. Please write with 1-inch margins, in Times New Roman 12-point font. Your essay should be double-spaced, 4-5 full pages long, and possess a unique title that reflects the substance of your essay.

Timeline for this essay:

- An introduction including a trial thesis statement for this essay is due in class (printed, 6 copies) on Monday, September 18
- Full draft workshop. Bring in a complete 4-5 page draft (2 copies, printed) on Wednesday, September 20
- Essay 1 is due by 8:05am on Monday, September 25 via Turn It In