

Exemplary outline: “Impact of social media on student learning”

I. Introduction

a. Overview of the topic

- Provide a brief introduction to social media and its relevance to academic performance.
- Define the scope of the literature review, including time frames and relevant themes.

b. Purpose of the literature review

- Clearly explain the objective of the review: to identify key themes, debates, and gaps in existing research.

c. Research questions of objective

- State the central research question:
“How does the use of social media platforms affect the academic performance of university students?”

d. Structure of the review

- Briefly outline how the review is organized (e.g., thematically, addressing positive and negative impacts, and differences among various platforms).

II. Body

a. Theme 1: Positive impacts of social media on academic performance

- **Overview:** Summarize studies highlighting the benefits of social media for academic engagement, collaboration, and resource sharing.
- **Evidence and analysis:** Discuss specific studies on platforms like LinkedIn or Facebook and their role in enhancing academic support.
- **Critical evaluation:** Analyze whether these positive impacts are consistently observed across different studies, noting any variations in findings.

b. Theme 2: Negative effects of social media on academic performance

- **Overview:** Summarize literature addressing the negative aspects of social media, such as reduced concentration, procrastination, and academic distractions.
- **Evidence and analysis:** Discuss studies linking excessive social media use with diminished study time and passive learning habits.

- **Critical evaluation:** Assess the credibility of studies and identify contradictions or gaps in the research.
- c. **Theme 3: Influence of specific social media platforms**
 - **Overview:** Explore how various platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) impact academic performance differently.
 - **Evidence and analysis:** Examine studies comparing platforms focused on professional development (e.g., LinkedIn) versus those for social interaction (e.g., Instagram).
 - **Critical evaluation:** Identify any gaps in the research related to platform-specific effects and suggest areas for further investigation.
- d. **Theme 4: Factors influencing social media's impact on academic performance**
 - **Overview:** Examine how variables such as duration of use, type of content, and demographic factors influence the impact of social media.
 - **Evidence and analysis:** Review studies that explore how factors like age, gender, and academic discipline affect students' engagement with social media.
 - **Critical evaluation:** Highlight areas where more research is needed to better understand these moderating factors.

III. Conclusion

- a. **Summary of key themes and findings**
 - Summarize the main findings from each theme, emphasizing the most significant insights gained from the reviewed studies.
- b. **Identification of key debates**
 - Reiterate the central debates in the literature (e.g., is social media more of a distraction or a learning tool?).
- c. **Research gaps**
 - Identify gaps in the existing literature, such as limited research on long-term academic impacts or platform-specific effects.
- d. **Implications for future research**
 - Suggest how your research could address these gaps or contribute to the ongoing debate about the effects of social media on academic performance.