My name is Samantha Bewley and I am studying Computer Science. I didn’t know anything about Computer Science until I was a freshman in high school. Before then, I never thought I would take a Computer Science class, and I never thought I would end up majoring in Computer Science. This class, Technical Communication, is not a required class for me to take, but I think I will learn a lot by taking Technical Communication. Today, there are many technical issues in the world, but the one that interests me the most is the use of social media. Technical Communication covers a broad variety of topics, all of which will be useful to me while I am studying Computer Science, and after I graduate.

I took my first programming class when I was a freshman in high school. I did not want to take the class at all, but my guidance counselor registered me for the class only because I was ahead in math. I wanted to switch out of the class as soon as possible, however, I then realized that my best friend since we were five was in that class. This would not be a big deal except that we had not had a class together ever. So I decided to stay in the class and I ended up loving it. I loved the class so much that I decided to take Advanced Placement Computer Science the next year. I love programming in general; I think it is fascinating that I can write code to make the computer do what I want it to do. I can make an app for an iPhone that will track the food trucks on campus, I can write code to calculate the highest prime number, there are endless possibilities when you know how to program.

Technical Communication is not a required class for me to take. I need to take Techniques of Speaking and two other writing or communication electives. I feel like this class will be a challenge for me, but I will work hard to do as well as I can. I decided to take it because I think the benefits of taking the class will greatly help me in the future. Being able to communicate my ideas effectively is important in any field, but I think it is especially important
in computer science. Whether I am writing a proposal to get funding for a project, writing a
description of software or an app that was developed, or anything else that I need to
communicate, I think that this course will provide a strong foundation communicating my ideas.
I took Techniques of Speaking last term and I think that class will help with this class. Because
that class focused mainly on public speaking, I think that that class will mainly help with the
presentations. Both of these classes will help me in my future career by giving me the necessary
skills to effectively communicate my ideas to people.

A technological issue that deeply interests me is social media use. I think that society
uses social media too much. While technology can be a good thing, it also affects society in a
negative way. People are constantly checking their phones and are more worried about what is
happening on social media then what is happening in the real world. Social media use is also
tied to poor academic performance. Students that spend a lot of time using social media are less
likely to complete their homework and attend class, they also have less confidence in their
academic performance, get less sleep and have problems with substance abuse (Carter).

Social media also negatively affects the relationships that we have with each other. Many
people invest more time in their online relationships then they do in their face-to-face
relationships. These online relationships are weaker and are not as personal. This is due to a
change in the way people communicate.

These issues shape my life in a big way. I am a computer science major, so one may think
that I would say social media is amazing and we should use it all the time. However, I do not
think that is true at all. I think social media is great if it is used in moderation, but not in excess.
People should still pick up the phone to talk to someone instead of shooting them a quick text or
e-mail. Talking on the phone is much more personal and helps to build a stronger relationship.
Also, social media should not be used all the time. For example, at the dinner table, there should be no social media; there should be face-to-face communication with the people that you are eating with. People should not feel the need to be constantly on social media when they are walking around. Besides from being unnecessary, this is also dangerous as it makes people less alert and less aware of their surroundings.

There are some positive aspects of social media. Social media is a great way to communicate with people around the world for little to no cost. Social media can also be used to spread the word about anything very quickly, which can be a good thing or a bad thing. Social media is also a good way to meet new people, but when meeting these new people face to face, caution must be used.

People in today’s world tend to overuse social media. Social media is a great tool when it is used in moderation, it can be used to keep in touch with old friends, or to promote a new business. However when people start to become obsessed with social media and when social media replaces face-to-face relationships, is when social media becomes negative.