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Evaluate Author's Claim

A **claim** is the author's position on a topic or issue. The science article "Monkey See, Monkey Do, Monkey Connect" is an informational text that states a specific claim about the behavior of human beings. Although Frans de Waal is an expert on the topic, it is not enough for him to simply state his claim and expect readers to accept what he is saying. He must support his claim throughout the essay with reasons, or declarations made to justify an action, decision, or belief, and evidence such as facts, details, and examples.

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

Social Media: Benefit or Burden?

Social media has transformed how we communicate and share information in the modern world. On one hand, platforms like Instagram and Twitter allow people to connect instantly across vast distances, something unimaginable just two decades ago. Additionally, these platforms provide opportunities for creative expression through photos, videos, and written content.

On the other hand, studies show increasing concern about social media's effects on mental health. Research from the University of Pennsylvania found that limiting social media use to 30 minutes per day significantly reduced feelings of loneliness and depression. Furthermore, many users report experiencing anxiety when comparing

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their lives to the carefully curated images they see online. The constant notifications and updates also contribute to distraction. According to a 2021 study, the average person checks their phone 96 times daily—approximately once every 10 minutes. Consequently, many students struggle to maintain focus while studying. Moreover, this constant interruption can affect sleep patterns when devices are used before bedtime.

Despite these concerns, social media plays an important role during crises by spreading critical information. During natural disasters, platforms like Facebook become vital communication tools. Similarly, during the recent pandemic, social media helped isolated individuals maintain social connections when in-person gatherings weren't possible. In conclusion, while social media offers unprecedented connectivity, its impact on well-being requires careful consideration. The key appears to be finding balance—leveraging benefits while minimizing potential harms through mindful usage.

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1. What is the primary text structure used in this passage?

Provide evidence to support your answer.

2. Identify three signal words or phrases that reveal the text structure being used.

3. How does this text structure help the author present information about social media?

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Evaluate Author's Claim-**Answer Key**

1. What is the primary text structure used in this passage?

Provide evidence to support your answer.

The primary text structure is compare and contrast. The author presents benefits of social media ("connect instantly") then contrasts with concerns ("effects on mental health").

2. Identify three signal words or phrases that reveal the text structure being used.

Signal phrases include: "On one hand," "On the other hand," "Despite these concerns," and "while." These words indicate comparison and contrast between positive and negative aspects.

3. How does this text structure help the author present information about social media?

The compare and contrast structure allows the author to present balanced viewpoints by examining both benefits and drawbacks of social media, leading to a conclusion about finding balance.