1. In the first four paragraphs, Wortham reports an embarrassing event in which a friend was for a while estranged. Do you think that this type of episode is more common on social media than on the telephone or face to face? Explain.

   Everyone agreed on that social media has no tone. Talking in person can influence tone and see how the person is really feeling. You cannot see facial expressions and not feel what the other person is feeling. One of the discussion members were surprised that the use of the ‘telephone’ is dead, it’s all about social media and texting.

2. Comment on this quote: “This Company (Facebook) is reshaping how we think about ourselves and define ourselves and our digital selves.”

   Our digital selves give us an ego confidence boost. When people like our statues or pictures we feel we are part of something greater. With this confidence we can keep doing what we like doing and know that we are not stopped. One person disagreed with these statements. They said that overall it doesn’t really show who we truly are, only snippets. No one on Facebook will see you for who you truly are, just some pictures not your personality.
“How Social Media is Having a Positive Impact on Our Culture?”

1. In paragraph 8, Rose says, “Social Media simultaneously draws us nearer and distances us.” What does this statement mean? Do you agree with it? If so, cite examples that support his statement.

   Most of the discussion was revolved around the idea of how people tend to ignore the world around us. We tend distant ourselves from reality and look blankly on a brightly lit screen. Instead of face to face interactions and learning an individual we use social media to learn about someone, no physical interactions anymore. The use of social media can bring people together, more than ever before but at the same time it can distance us as human beings.

2. Rose also says, “The Internet doesn’t steal our humanity, it reflects it. The Internet doesn’t get inside us; it shows us what’s inside us. And social media isn’t cold; it’s just complex and hard to define.” Explain each sentence and give an example that might support it.

   Its true internet doesn’t steal humanity, we are controlling it, and we are the evil villains. We are the masked villains on the internet, putting things we only want keeping the mask on, but when or if we take the mask off we are revealing ourselves and we do not want to do that. Whenever something is popular we go on it like flies, but when it’s not popular we ignore it and harass others who think it is. It’s better to live in the moment and be mindful for everyone, not just yourself.
It’s Not About You, Facebook. It’s about Us.

1. In the first four paragraphs, Wortham reports an embarrassing event in which a friend was for a while estranged. Do you think that this type of episode is more common on social media than on the telephone or face to face? Explain.

In the article “It’s Not About You, Facebook. It’s about Us” Jenna Wortham describes a time when she got aggravated at one of her friends over something that he posted on the popular social site Facebook. Ultimately, it is apparent that these types of flare ups are more common over social media than they are over the telephone or face to face. One reason for this is that when one is online, it is far more easier to ignore the other person because they’re not around; however, when someone engages in a face to face conversation, you can’t simply ignore them because they are engaging in eye contact with the other person. These types of problems are also more common online because the emotions are not visible when one types. Because of this, the true intentions of what someone says online might be taken the wrong way, and these situations occur more often.

2. Comment on this quote: "This company (Facebook) is reshaping how we think about ourselves and define ourselves and our digital selves.”

Facebook has changed the way that we think about our lives, and definitely the way that we go about them. A really big change is that it gives us the option to express our thoughts almost instantly through a simple post. For example, the Facebook Wall feature is in some ways a reflection of ourselves. The wall defines, for people that visit it, the type of person that we are. It lets them know what we like to do, and maybe who are really close friends are. Some of us can’t stand using Facebook, and others simply can’t live without it. These people feel like they need to inform people of everything going on in their lives. Many people are turning to Instagram for their social networking because it is simpler to use, and now Facebook is more attractive to the older generation than it is to the younger one.

3. In paragraph 8, Rose says, “Social Media simultaneously draws us nearer and distances us.” What does this statement mean? Do you agree with it? If so, cite examples that support his statement.

The statement from Rose in paragraph 8 means that Social Media draws us nearer to the people that we don’t see everyday, family and friends. An example from the article would be “I don’t get to see him all the time. He’s growing up in two houses, as I did. But recently I handed down my old iPhone 3G to him to use basically as an Ipod touch. We both installed an app called Yak, so we could communicate with each other when we’re apart. He does this when he isn’t with his son because of the divorce from his wife, making this form of communication the closest that he can be with his son at these times. This supports Rose saying that Social Media has drawn us closer to each other. However this may isolate us if we only use it and avoid human contact. Another example from the paragraph 8 that Rose says was,
“But I think very often, we lament what we miss and forget to admire what we’ve become.” Those who are close to you in real life and use technology would result in a less intimate relationship. Therefore, we agree that Social Media does make us closer and farther apart from each other at the same time.

4. Rose also says, “The Internet doesn’t steal our humanity, it reflects it. The Internet doesn't get inside us, it shows us what's inside us. And social media isn't cold, it's just complex and hard to define.” Explain each sentence and give an example that might support it.

In the article “How Social Media is Having a Positive Impact on Our Culture” Josh Rose has made a lot of valuable points. It is very true that “The Internet doesn’t steal our humanity, it reflects it.” We choose what we want the media to know about us, not the media steal it from us. “The internet doesn't get inside us, it shows us what's inside us.” I'm not sure about others, I had never thought of the internet showing what's inside us, but it could definitely do so. For example, at times we might just get online and write on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram about whatever comes to mind at the moment and take a look at it later and wonder, “Wow that came from me?” This sentence was very eye opening. “Social Media isn't cold, its just complex and hard to define.” Social media could be anything we chose to. We all post a small or big part of ourselves out for the world to know in the media.

Team two Summaries: Laura, Lizbeth, Raul.T/TH 1:30

Team two; Laurel, Marco, and Liliana were joined together to discuss assigned questions on the essay’s “It’s Not about You, Facebook It’s about us” by Jenna Wortham, and “How Social Media Is Having a Positive Impact on Our Culture”, by Josh Rose. The first two questions were about Wortham’s essay and the first one asked if they thought it was a more common scenario for a friend to be estranged through an argument that took place through social media rather than face to face or through a phone call. They all agreed that this happens more often online because there are no boundaries. Social media is personal, while face to face can be embarrassing. They mentioned that people have trouble confronting others, and they show a different person that others do not see. Thus, social media allows people to ‘hide’ behind a screen and for a shy person this could be favorable.

The next question asked them to comment on a quote that states that Facebook is transforming the way everyone sees themselves while also modifying the way they illustrate themselves online through their digital selves. The group collaborated and they concurred that Facebook and social media in general is helping people adjust themselves into someone who they’re really not. They stated that it allows people to look different physically yet in person they are nothing like what they look online. For some the only importance is the “likes” accumulated rather than the actual message or picture sent. One student mentioned that he has seen people on Instagram having 300 “likes” but in person it seems that they wouldn’t get those same 300 “likes”.
The group then transitioned to the next two questions, which were on Josh Rose’s essay. The first question asked them what they thought a quote meant. The quote said: “Social media simultaneously draws us nearer and distances us” (613). Team two agreed with this statement because when you connect with someone online without being literally close, you are actually lonely. This statement explains that social media draws us nearer and distances us. When you connect digitally it does draws you nearer, but at the same time distances you because you are not literally there with them. They agree that you are able to talk to people that you don’t know and get close to, but they don’t know anything about you, they accept you and get close when in reality you are lonely.

Rose also says, “The Internet doesn’t steal our humanity, it reflects it. The Internet doesn’t get inside us, it shows us what’s inside us, and social media isn't cold, it’s just complex and hard to explain”. Team two explained how deep down we say what we want to say because we are backed up with the internet ‘protection’. They mentioned it may be ironic to feel more secure rather than in a room, in face to face confrontation because you won’t have others around the confrontation listening or ease dropping in the discussion. Another analogy said was when you are talking face to face you must respond quickly and may not say what you needed to say rather than responding to an E mail where you have time to read over the message to make sure you are going to say what you want to say. Team two also mentioned that our generation has changed in many ways. One is instead of writing letters you write Emails or post a picture online and write a status. Also it reflects on how the 21st century is and has changed.