Social media are the online communication tools that allow people to connect with each other. Today, over 1.5 billion people are members of social networking sites (SNS). Based on the fact that we live in the 21st century, it is important to consider the role of SNS in our daily lives.

Previous research suggests that SNS use is associated with increased communication and interaction. One in four people spends more time online than engaging in face-to-face conversations. Furthermore, our hypothesis concentrates on the idea that people prefer to communicate online rather than in person. Even though technology has advanced tremendously and it is now easier and faster to communicate online, our expectation is that we could have gotten a larger sample size and a more diverse sample.

Our research did have limitations, one being that we could have gotten a larger sample size. It was interesting that, even though technology has advanced tremendously and it is now easier and faster to communicate online, our results showed that in-person conversations are still what people prefer.

Introduction
According to researcher, the internet is perceived as a characteristic of modern life where people can communicate through computer mediated communication (CMC). CMC can elicit higher rates of sharing information online than in offline communication (Friend & Hamilton, 2016).

- Social media are the online communication tools that allow people to connect with each other.
- Previous research suggests that SNS use is associated with increased communication and interaction.
- One in four people spends more time online than engaging in face-to-face conversations.
- Our hypothesis concentrates on the idea that people prefer to communicate online rather than in person.

Materials and Procedure
- 12 Questions indicating one’s preference of online or in-person communication. Answer choices are rated from 1 (strongly agree) to 6 (strongly disagree).
- 30 Questions of Personality traits. Answer choices are rated from 1 (strongly agree) to 6 (strongly disagree), with the higher they agree, the lower their scores are on their personality traits (OCEAN).
- 11 Demographic questions.
- Participants were asked to fill out the survey in order to receive extra credit for their records.

Methodology
Participants:
- 57 participants, age range from 18 to 34 years (M=20.6)
- 25 males, 30 females, and two who identify as others from Foothill and De Anza Community College.

Ethnecities: Asian (n=22), more than 1 race (n=19), White (n=10), Hispanic (n=3), African American (n=2), Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (n=1).

Materials and Procedure
- 12 Questions indicating one’s preference of online or in-person communication. Answer choices are rated from 1 (strongly agree) to 6 (strongly disagree).
- E.g. “I find it difficult finding words to express my feelings in person.”
- 30 Questions of Personality traits. Answer choices are rated from 1 (strongly agree) to 6 (strongly disagree), with the higher they agree, the lower their scores are on their personality traits (OCEAN).
- E.g. “I like to have a lot of people around me.”
- 11 Demographic questions.
- Gender, self-reported age, ethnicity, and information about how often people spend on social media accounts (if they have), and how they communicate with their partners (if they have ones).
- Participants were asked to fill out the survey in order to receive extra credit for their records.

Results
- People who have low scores on extraversion tend to be more comfortable sharing information face-to-face (r=.310).
- People whose scores are low on neuroticism are less comfortable sharing information face-to-face (r = -.361).
- People who are less open tend to be more comfortable sharing information on social media format (r = -.288).
- The results indicate that there are no significant correlation between people who have high scores on conscientiousness and agreeableness with either communicating online or face-to-face.

Conclusions
- Based on our results, our hypothesis was wrong. We found that people, especially introverts, prefer to have a regular face-to-face conversation rather than engaging in a form of online communication, which was out of our expectation.
- Our research did have limitations, one being that we could have gotten a larger sample size and a more diverse sample.
- It was interesting that, even though technology has advanced tremendously and it is now easier and faster to communicate online, our results showed that in-person conversations are still what people prefer.

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Literature cited