

Intimate relationships and media
Chapter 5 discussion
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Mediated communication has played a large role in most of my relationships whether they have been romantic or platonic. Many of the friendships I have grown over the years have started by communicating online or through various social media platforms. Starting college freshman year I became friends with countless people just by communicating through social media platforms. For example, I met my freshman year roommate through Facebook and we slowly became friends through communicating on Snapchat and iMessage. We had never met face to face and only knew who each other were over the phone. Therefore when we met in person for the first time we had already known a lot about each other so it was easy for us to communicate and understand certain things about each other. This also caused some issues because communicating solely online allowed for us to hide behind a screen a lot of the time. As said in the reading by (Vitak and Ellison) we can take time to think about what we want to say and have more control over the things we say or how we respond to others. I believe mediated communication has affected my intimate relationships because communicating through text messaging comes with the risk of miscommunication as it can be very hard to understand the true message behind a text. Based on (Whalen et al, 2009) findings that at least one line in our emails sent should not be read literally and I believe that can also relate to messages. Sarcasm and jokes can be hard to understand behind a screen especially when communicating with a loved one. There have been many times I have made a joke to my boyfriend over a message and he does not take it as a joke and a fight may be sparked. However, being able to communicate online has also helped my romantic relations a lot as well. Right now, my boyfriend is on a flight to Australia where he will stay for three months. Obviously the only way we can communicate is online and the only way we can hear each other's voices is via phone calls. It is not ideal but it is much better than nothing therefore I am extremely lucky to have this

advanced technology today. It will be extremely helpful to have this form of communication because we will lack the physical touch aspect of communication which forces us to learn how to communicate in different ways via facetimes, messages, pictures and so on. If we did not have the technology we have today we would not be able to continue our relationship so right now in my life, mediated communication has been extremely helpful.