Example #1

I can’t agree with the author when he says, “The friendship circle has expanded to engulf the whole of the social world.” Facebook is the place where people can easily reach their friends. When I first came here to the United States, I didn’t have any friends or relatives with me, so I felt bored and I missed my friends and family members. But nowadays I don’t feel like I’m missing anybody. By using Facebook, I have found many of my friends. I feel happy when I chat with them. So, Facebok brings my friends closer to me.

This paragraph should be about how, while you **agree** with this quote, you do not agree with the author that this is a bad thing or that it cheapens relationships.

Example #2

The author says “there they are, my friends, all in the same place,” and that is completely right. Before inventing social network sites, people used to write letters or use the phone to communicate with their friends and relatives in different parts of the world. Writing letters and making phone calls are expensive and hard to do. For example, many of my childhood friends live around the world. I have never thought of communicating with all of my friends before the invention of social networks. When using Facebook, I can communicate and share different things with friends as if I were gossiping with them in my childhood. Now people don’t have to spend money and don’t have to wait for letters or phonecalls. Social networks make our lives easy.

Add something that makes the relationship **explicit.** “… Because of the convenience Facebook gives us, my friends are all accessible in one place, so now people don’t have to spend money and don’t have to wait for letters or phonecalls. Social networks make our lives easy.”

-       Don’t make a new paragraph for your thesis!

-       What does “however” mean?

o   Show disagreement/contrast between two things. Almost just like “but.”

-       “So” – means “as a result.”

o   “My friend worked hard. **This hard work helped prepare him for the future and made him successful throughout school and in his career.** So, I believe kids should have to compete in school.”

… is good for children in middle school because they can learn from the mistakes and improve every day. **According to the author, a danger of removing competition is that kids have “the pretension that whatever they bring to the activity is valuable.”** This means that it is important that …

“I read an article which shows the importance of turning failure into success. **This article discussed the idea that people could benefit from failing a few times and practicing turning what they learned from failing into a constructive way to succeed in the future. I think by removing competition from activities, the principal is robing children of this valuable lesson.”**

Example Essay:

As long as social websites keep developing their services, friendship will turn out to be a virtual interaction where we will not know if we are talking with real friends. One of the articles that talks about this issue is “Faux Friendship.” Its author, William Deresiewicz, describes how social networking sites influence our relationships with others. He points out that social websites like Facebook have allowed people to be aware of all the information related to their friends. Nevertheless, Deresiewicz also argues that the virtual way these people get the information destroys their friendships because, when they want to walk with their peers, they have to do it indirectly through images. There is not a desired communication when we use the internet like the one that we have when we talk with a friend personally.

 The author compares real friendships with networking images that represent, in some way, imaginary interactions when we try to communicate with people. Through time, society has become engaged to the new era of social networking sites. The unprecedented opportunity for individuals to create a visual self has become a necessity. However, it is important to have a virtual profile to be considered a friend? Deresiewicz says that when people make use of these social websites to talk, in fact, they are addressing images. In my personal experience, I have been enjoying communicating myself through Facebook. Nevertheless, I cannot deny that I would rather be talking directly with my friends in person that writing to them with a keyboard. By communicating with friends personally, we are more able to understand in a deep way arguments and important points made in a discussion then we can be when we communicate ourselves through social networking sites.

 All in all, it is true that social websites have helped many people to communicate with each other. However, we should realize that a virtual profile will never replace a significant interaction of two friends.

 In conclusion, we could have a long list of Facebook friends, but the reality is that real friends are the ones who are along with us and not the ones who are only exist on a virtual page. WE should think if we are still keeping a friendship with people we talk to daily or if we are creating a virtual source of loneliness where everybody can be our friends only by adding them to the long list of friendship on our social networking sites.

It is vital to teach children in middle school the importance of working hard to be rewarded, and that can force them to do their best in order to succeed. But the article by Norman Lockman, “Easy Way out Can Lead Kids Nowhere” demonstrates how a principal from a suburban middle school decided to change the school programs which previously required the students to compete to instead be open to everyone regardless of skill. However, there was a discussion about whether the students should learn they have to work hard to be successful or be protected from the stress of competition. Some people think the decision of the principal is good because every student can participate. On the other hand, some people disagree with this reasoning because they believe the students should start learning that nothing comes easily and they have to work hard to succeed. I believe that the second group is right and the principal should not include every student if they are not qualified so that they can learn that hard work is what earns them a special place.

[…]

In addition, learning the idea of hard work to succeed at a very young age should be the priority for many schools, and then the students can learn the importance of working hard in order to get good at something. According to the article, “The experiment is becoming the focus of a controversy over larger values: should children be shielded from competitive pressure or should they learn that things don’t come easy?” That means the study concentrates on having many students getting involved in those sports. At the same time, they were more concerned about protecting the students from the stress of competition than teaching them to be prepared to achieve certain tasks in life. For example, many high school students who were skillful in sports learned them in middle school, and they worked very hard. In other words, they competed to learn how to play better, and that helped them to receive a scholarship to go to a college which helped them continue their career. Moreover, these students had great success because of their hard work, and they learned it at a very young age because they had to compete since they were young.

The article “Easy Way out Can Lead Kids Nowhere” by Norman Lockman discusses the importance of competition among the kids to get the best out of the kid’s abilities so that they are able to do well in the future. In his article, Lockman explains how a suburban middle school principle in Plainfield, Indiana has decided to remove competition from all extracurricular activities. The principal has made all activities, including sports and skill-based activities, open to all students so they do not have to suffer from any competition. The principal’s idea is to make sure there is involvement from as many kids as possible so he removed competition from all extracurricular activities. On the other hand, the author feels participation without competition or hard work does not lead kids to their real goals for the future because they grow up without understanding the importance of hard work. I also feel the way the author feels because competition is equally important for kids as their participation in all activities.

One of the reasons why I think competition is necessary in childhood is that kids get a change to improve their skills. They get a chance to understand that failure plays a very important role in success in life. If there is no competition, kids won’t know their weak points about the activities they are going to participate in and the kids will be unable to fix their errors. As the author mentions in the article, all kids in Plainfield Middle School are getting a change to participate in all activities regardless of their abilities. Participation is a very good thing, but how about their improvement over their weaknesses? How would people judge weakness without competition and how would kids learn they need to work hard to fix their weakness without competing with others? Let me explain it with an example. My niece is a student in elementary school. She had a math quiz in class and only the top five students were allowed to leave the class early and go home. But she failed to make within the top five. This is how kids know their weakness. Then she knew she was weak in math and she now gives more time in math and practices it a lot. If there was no competition and all the students were treated equally regardless of the results of the quiz, my niece wouldn’t know she is weak in math and should practice more.