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<div align="center">Exploratory Issue</div>

What is real communication? It is the collaborative process of using messages to create and participate in social reality. It is also the key to achieving many of the positive outcomes each of us desires. On the more personal level, we may hope to fully and freely express ourselves to stay connected with a vast network of family, friends, to build and nurture satisfying intimate relationships, to thrive in our careers and to become the best version of ourselves. Then why do we enter a tethered self-state where we are always aware of and attuned to both the "real world" and life on the screen. How do we balance interacting in the real world and communicating in the virtual world at the same time?

There was a period where people communicated via handwritten letters. Letters would be sent to various places, far or near. Then in 1792, the telegraph rose as a new form of communication. Communication evolved once again in the 1800s, and the radio and telephone were invented. Which helped people communicate much faster and efficiently. Messages, news, and advertisements could reach larger audiences. It can be said that the radio, telephone, letters, and telegraph where the social media platforms of the people in these times. Later came the invention of computers, which at first were not as domesticated as they later became. As technology evolved, the internet became easier to use. We now have a great number of social media platforms that allow us to communicate with each other with just a click on a touch screen. These platforms have created a new way of how we communicate in the world.

Communication is collaborative, we rely on creating shared understandings so that we can participate with others. Verbal communication allows us to participate in the social world by asserting, promising, apologizing, requesting, expressing, and performing. It is known that verbal communication is a primary way people participate in family life and relationships. Having a conversation with someone face to face, guarantees you'll have their whole attention and your message is more likely to be heard. You are more likely to build relationships with people when communicating with them face to face. In a survey by Forbes that spoke to 760 business executives, 84% preferred face to face communication. Out of those, 85% said their reason was that it builds stronger, more meaningful business relationships. Respondents of the survey also said face to face meetings are best for persuasion (91%), leadership (87%), and engagement (86%). When sending an email or a text message there are times where the context of the message can be misunderstood, misread, or thought of as rude when it's not. Having a meeting face to face eliminates miscommunication that can occur over email or the phone. There are a lot of things that can be interpreted the wrong way because of the lack of body language; 55% of meaning in an interaction comes from facial and body language, 38% comes from vocal inflection, 7% of interaction's meaning comes from the words themselves. Body language also adds intensity to the process of communication.

Being able to communicate virtually and in the real life is great. You get to keep in touch with people as well as meet new people. Furthermore, people fall deep within the virtual world and start to drift away from their family and friends. "Several studies suggest that computer-mediated communication can lead to decreases in group effectiveness and reduce satisfaction levels in terms of trust and comfort of its users". Today, when giving children the options of going outside to play with others or staying inside to play online games, children choose to stay

inside. An online friendship does not compare to a physical one, it completely gets rid of meeting up in person and hanging out, speaking to one another over the phone, or simply having a conversation with one another. Nor does it allow you the physical experience and comfort of having a friend by your side.

Impersonal online communication can be time consuming rather than a in person conversation. This is because the time it takes to type, response time and then reply again interferes with the flow of the conversation itself. E-mail is especially laborious since an individual must type their half of the conversation, send it, and wait for a response. You can expect to wait a few hours or perhaps a couples of days to complete one conversation. Having a face to face conversation cuts the time in half. For some it is beneficial to have a conversation throughout multiple days rather than a 30 minutes face to face conversation, it is not completely ideal but everyone fits in socializing into their busy schedule differently. With communicating in the virtual world, we get people who get too comfortable behind a screen. For some of us it is easier to create a profile that shows only specific aspects of our lives that we want to share. We create a confident version of ourselves online, even if in reality we are nothing close to confident. But then we also ask ourselves the question of, why can we not transfer that confidence to use in our everyday lives? I believe that once you create someone you are not online, it can be hard to transition between what you know as a reality and what you virtually made up.

In the end there is no wrong or right way that one should communicate. It is the simple fact that one should not forget where it all started. We need to be able to communicate in all the forms that are available to us, but we must not leave any behind. It is in our benefit to be able to communicate both in the real world as well as the "virtual" world. If I were to continue

researching this issue, I would research if we can become who we imagine online. I would also consider the effects of disconnecting from one source of communication. Like just living off online communication without any physical interactions with others, if it is even possible to do. I would look into this because I wonder if there are cases where people take the world they have created online too seriously that they no long want to participate in the actual society.

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