

List of Readings: Informative Synthesis Essay

Also see [Connected Society Links webpage](#)

Understanding Media Literacy

- [Digital Media Literacy](#), including sections on
 - Judging Online Information
 - Practice Evaluating a Webpage
 - How to Read a Webpage
 - What is Sponsored Content?
 - What is Clickbait?
 - What is Targeted Advertising?
 - How Ads and Clicks Shape the Internet
 - Deconstructing Media Messages
 - The Problem with Photo Manipulation
 - Recognizing Persuasive Language
 - The Blur Between Facts and Opinions in the Media
 - What is an Echo Chamber?
 - How Filter Bubbles Isolate You
 - What is Fake News?
 - How Social Media Stars Make Money
 - Always On in a Digital World
 - Why We Can't Stop Scrolling
 - Why We Can't Just Pick a Movie
 - FOMO: Our Relationship with Social Media
- [5 Key Questions of Media Literacy](#)
- [Deconstructing Media Messages](#)

Data/Information

- [Online Advertising & Tracking](#)
- [Americans' Social Media Use](#)
- [Data Brokers](#)

General Articles/Videos

- [A History of Panic Over Entertainment Technology](#)
- [Beauty Filters Are Changing the Way Young Girls See Themselves](#)
- [Symbols, Values & Norms: Crash Course Sociology #10](#) (Video)
- [Friend or Faux: Are Parasocial Relationships Healthy?](#)
- [Neuromarketing: How Brands Are Getting Your Brain to Buy More Stuff](#) (Video)
- [What AI Teaches Us About Good Writing](#)
- [Captive: How the Ad Industry Pins Us Down](#)
- [People Are Losing Loved Ones to AI-Fueled Spiritual Fantasies](#)
- [Teens, Social Media and Mental Health](#)
- [How the U.S. Public and AI Experts View Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [The Future of Human Agency](#)
- [AI Influencers, Explained](#)
- [Social Media and Students' Privacy: What Schools and Districts Should Know](#)
- [The Truth Behind Filter Bubbles: Bursting Some Myths](#)
- [TikTok Brain: Understanding the Impact on Modern Attention Spans](#)
- [TikTok: An underestimated addiction](#)

- [The Growing Data Privacy Concerns with AI: What You Need to Know](#)
- [Understand the differences between AI, GenAI, and ML](#)
- [Generative AI Vs. Agentic AI: The Key Differences Everyone Needs to Know](#)
- [Social Media Impact: How Social Media Sites Affect Society](#)
- [Anthropomorphizing AI: Dire Consequences Of Mistaking Human-Like for Human Have Already Emerged](#)

Studies

- [Mental Health of Social Media Influencers](#)
- [The Sisyphean Cycle of Technology Panics](#)
- [Understanding Social Media Literacy: A Systematic Review of the Concept and Its Competences](#)
- [Helpful or Harmful? Navigating the Impact of Social Media Influencers' Health Advice: Insights from Health Expert Content Creators](#)
- [Filter Bubbles and the Unfeeling: How AI for Social Media Can Foster Extremism and Polarization](#)
- [Facebook's Ethical Failures Are Not Accidental; They Are Part of the Business Model](#)
- [The Power of Social Validation: A Literature Review on How Likes, Comments, and Shares Shape User Behavior on Social Media](#)
- [The Dark Side of Social Media: Content Effects on the Relationship Between Materialism and Consumption Behaviors](#)
- [The Role of Social Media in Promoting Overconsumption](#)
- [Digitalization and Media Consumption: Shaping the Future of Content Engagement](#)
- [Anthropomorphism in AI](#)
- [Anthropomorphism in AI: Hype and Fallacy](#)

Fiction

- [The Pedestrian](#)
- [Just Do It](#) (Story and Audio)
- [The Perfect Match](#) (Story and Audio)
- [Rocket Surgery](#) (Story and Audio)
- [Your Corporate Network and the Forces of Darkness](#) (Audio)

- "Fandom for Robots" (Episode 624) - About an AI's relationship with online fandom culture
- "A Foundational Model for Talking to Girls" (Episode 949) - Explores AI and human communication
- "When Robot and Crow Saved East St. Louis" (Episode 712) - Examines AI's role in communities

Film/Documentary

- [Childhood 2.0](#)
- Many episodes of [Black Mirror](#)

Documentaries

- **"The Social Dilemma" (Netflix)** - As mentioned above, features former employees from major tech companies discussing the dangers of social media.
- **"The Great Hack" (Netflix)** - About the Cambridge Analytica scandal and how personal data is harvested and used to influence behavior.
- **AlphaGo (Documentary)** - Chronicles the match between AI system AlphaGo and world champion Go player Lee Sedol, exploring the implications of AI advancement.
- ***Lo and Behold: Reveries of the Connected World* (Werner Herzog)** - Examines the internet's impact on human interaction, business, and daily life. Amazon Prime or [free on the Roku Channel](#).
- **"Coded Bias" (Netflix)** - Explores the social impact of algorithms and how AI can perpetuate discrimination.