Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Number

Date

Summary of Topic Proposal

Theme: How Social Media Affects Public Opinion and Political Discourse

Topic: Social media's effects on political debate and public opinion.

Impact

Society, individuals, lawmakers, activists, and media organizations are all affected.

Personal Context

Concerned citizens are concerned about the consequences of politics and the media.

Main Issue question

How do social media affect political discourse and the formation of public opinion?

Information Questions

1. How do social media algorithms affect how users are exposed to content?

2. How can bots and influencers influence political narratives?

3. Do political engagement levels vary amongst social media platforms?

4. How do filter bubbles and echo chambers impact political polarization?

5. What ethical ramifications do fact-checking and content moderation have?

Keywords: polarization, algorithms, echo chambers, influencers, social media, politics, public

opinion, and content control.

Current Opinion: Public opinion and political discourse are greatly influenced by social media,

but its scope and effects need to be investigated.

Strategy to avoid the backfire effect during research:

a. Approach with an open mind and take into account many viewpoints.

I'll keep an open mind and be objective during my investigation to prevent being a victim of the backfire effect. This entails consciously putting aside any biases or prior beliefs I may have about the subject.

a. Verify sources for trustworthiness and credibility; stay away from information that is slanted or unreliable.

I will carefully assess the sources I come across to verify the veracity and authenticity of the data I obtain during my research. Academic journals, peer-reviewed scientific works, and credible publications from reliable sources will be given priority.

Journal Sources

1. Goyanes, Manuel, Homero Gil de Zúñiga. "Social media filtering and democracy: Effects of social media news use and uncivil political discussions on social media unfriending." Computers in Human Behavior 120 (2021): 106759.

2. McGregor, Shannon C. "Social media as public opinion: How journalists use social media to represent public opinion." Journalism 20.8 (2019): 1070-1086.

3. Cinelli, Matteo, et al. "The echo chamber effect on social media." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 118.9 (2021): e2023301118.

General Sources

1. "Social Media's Impact on Politics and Public Opinion." Mirage News, 25 Apr. 2023, https://www.miragenews.com/social-medias-impact-on-politics-and-public-992664/

2. "The Impact of Social Media on Public Opinion." CC Plus, 23 Aug. 2021, https://cc-plus.com/articles/2021/08/23/the-impact-of-social-media-on-public-opinion/

3. Britannica. "Mass Media and Social Media." W. Phillips Davison. Britannica, 2023,

   https://www.britannica.com/topic/public-opinion/Mass-media-and-social-media

Works Cited

Goyanes, Manuel, Homero Gil de Zúñiga. "Social media filtering and democracy: Effects of social media news use and uncivil political discussions on social media unfriending." Computers in Human Behavior 120 (2021): 106759.

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"Social Media's Impact on Politics and Public Opinion." Mirage News, 25 Apr. 2023, https://www.miragenews.com/social-medias-impact-on-politics-and-public-992664/

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