

Impact of Social Media on Social Issues

How Your Bubble May Be Altering Your View

by Temyia Holcomb

It seems like these days you can't turn on the news or open social media without finding out that the country has something to argue about; But when you are looking at all of this, do the people you listen to only have opinions you agree with?

When a story on a sensitive topic breaks (e.g. racism, sexuality, police brutality, gender identity, gun control) every person with a social media account and an internet connection seems to have something to say about it. Verified twitter accounts go on rants and news outlets go over the details of the debate every ten minutes. The world overwhelms you with information and opinions, be they accurate or not. Despite this tsunami of views, how much do the ones that you are consuming really differ from each other and what you tend to believe personally?

When it comes to social media we obviously choose who it is we "follow" or are "friends" with, but when tensions start to rise these similarities could isolate you from seeing the whole picture. What is the first thing we all do when someone says something about politics that we don't agree with? We either go on a rampage to tear down their views or completely eliminate what they are saying from our timelines by blocking them. Social media makes it so easy for us to not only attain information but attain the information that we WANT to see; and when something is happening in the world there will be someone who has something to say about it just one swipe away. I know that I personally, follow probably exclusively people who I share similar interests with; whether that be political, social or revolving entertainment. So, when it comes to the big issues, I find that I rarely see an opinion that is different from my own.

Over time I've learned to seek out these opposing viewpoints. Now of course I know: Nobody wants to deal with the frustration of reading and hearing the opinions of those who disagree with them. But hear me out here! The best way to truly understand your opinion and have confidence in what you believe is to have knowledge on what exactly it is that you don't agree with.

When we are in school we learn how to write argumentative essays and part of that includes doing research on BOTH sides of the



Artist: Shysha Taylor

argument. The idea of being aware of both yourself and the opposition isn't just a skill to be utilized for getting a good grade in class but also for having a better understanding of the insane world that we live in.

Of course I'm not saying that Trump supporters should change their Twitter bio's to "DM me, lets talk about politics!!!" or that people of the LGBTQ+ community should spend the

weekend scrolling through the Westboro Baptist Church website. But the next time the internet inevitably explodes over some new controversy, take the time to look at the situation without your personal bias and see both sides. Do your research before jumping to conclusions. Pop your comfort bubble (I promise, you'll be okay).