Facebook allows us to disconnect

In Sherman Alexie’s “The Facebook Sonnet,” Facebook and other social media cites are criticized for its lack of real, genuine connections. In this sonnet Alexie discusses how the things posted on Facebook, good and bad, are usually all lumped together and how using social media is supposed to allow new connections when it actually hinders a user as it limits them to behind a computer screen or a phone.

Alexie starts out the sonnet with comparing the things that one is to see on Facebook with an “endless high-school reunion,” (Alexie 2) and that by doing this we “undervalue and unmend the present,” (Alexie 4-5). This is saying that when one goes on social media they are usually always stuck in the past and on old relationships rather than making new connections. Comparing the things one sees on ones social media feed to an “endless high-school reunion,” (Alexie 2) suggests that the people posting things are constantly trying to post things about their lives so that the people from their pasts can stay aware of what is going on in their lives and that these people are constantly trying to impress and portray their best selves.

He then goes on to ask “Why can’t we pretend every stage of life is the same?” (Alexie 5-6). This suggests that people act like everything that happens in their life is post-worthy. To something as important as two people getting married to something as simple as what you had to eat this morning, people post it all and expect some kind of “like” or comment regarding their post. He talks about making everyone’s personal lives something that the public needs to know
about and that these things, even though they are of completely different importance, are posted in the same ways and can be accessed all together. Alexie specifically mentions “let one’s search for God become public domain,” (Alexie 10-11). People make their struggles or their triumphs known on social media. People discuss their religious beliefs, their political opinions and their daily thoughts all over a form of online social communication.

Social media is actually making us less connected to those around us. This is making connections with actual people a little more difficult because people are now comfortable with saying how they feel via some other form of medium other than face-to-face conversation. In the end Alexie says “let’s sign up, sign in, and confess here at the altar of loneliness,” (Alexie 13-14). One usually on their social media cites are doing so alone, by themselves. And people usually take time out of their day to be by themselves or they disconnect themselves from their surroundings to partake in Facebook or other social media cites. Rather than connecting with people in real life, social media has made it more difficult for people to communicate their real feelings in person.

Overall, Alexie looks down on social media, Facebook particularly. In terms of connections, “The Facebook Sonnet,” reveals that social media makes people have a lack of genuine relationships.
Works Cited