Quinn Stewart Writing Assignment Ms. Bishop 1/24/24 8th

The virtual crisis that immensely affects the youth has altered dopamine levels, hormones, and knowledge. Addiction to social media has now peaked. Social media has exposed the youth. Misinformation and disinformation lead young people to false beliefs. This issue is being worked on to escape this "Dark Night of The Soul".

Addiction to social media has now peaked because of addictive algorithms, helping to fuse dopamine in the brain. For example, dopamine is a dangerous chemical produced in the brain and released when having fun but young minds were led to dangerous algorithms on the internet because of the technology behind these platforms creating content that keeps viewers scrolling endlessly, emulating setting a rat trap. To fight this addictive algorithmic process the new bill that is being passed for the youth of New York to be safe on the internet, titled "Stop Addictive Feeds Exploration for Kids Act (S.A.F.E)", provides a "default" feed, fighting the addiction forcefully fed to viewers on their usual feed. In the book, "The Future of The Mind" by Michio Kaku, he discusses how our brain is similar to an algorithm because of the different patterns and processes it follows like the addictive technology our brains are drawn to; social media platforms manipulate the built-in algorithms in our minds by creating addicting content, gaining viewers on their online sites. Furthermore, Addiction to social media has also led to exposure. Social media has exposed the youth because of the data being sold on platforms as a minor. For example, social media platforms record the data viewed as minor and throw more of the same content at the user. However, Governor Kathy Houcul has put in place in the second bill, stating "The New York SAFE Act Prevents Online Sites from Collecting Data", restricting sites from selling or utilizing data from those who are under 18; this helps regulate the exposure to gossip, inappropriate content reoccurring on someone who is under 18's feed; does this also regulate the inquisitiveness of a child? The quote Governor Hocul continued to state was "Our Kids Are in Crisis, and the adults in the room need to step up.", regarding adults regulating what their children view on social media. As a result, social media has dissociated the young brains from what is true and what is false.

Misinformation and disinformation lead young people to false beliefs because of the consistent gossip spread on social media, affecting users. For example, the false information on social media has atrociously blinded the youth, emulating salt being thrown in their eyes with the young brains's inability to distinguish between mendaciousness and honesty as the waters of the internet are vast and chilling. The propaganda on social media can immensely affect the youth's ability to think intellectually because of the gossip being spread through chats and social media. This can be juxtaposed with the current state of politics, influencing the young generation because of the misinformation that is given to the general public to bamboozle others. In addition, how has this immense issue been solved for the sanctity of human life?

This issue is being worked on to escape this "Dark Night of The Soul". According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, over 100,000 lives of young children have been taken because of suicide, commonly caused by social media or internet usage as a whole; these children are like Supernovas, meaning fallen stars who did not recognize their worth because of

social media diminishing their identity. Addiction to social media has caused an enantiodromia in the youth's mind from freedom to entrapment, emulating being lost in a hazy maze. Attorney General Letitia James and Governor of New York Kathy Hocul have created a bill to prevent more young lives from being taken and to save current children from a negative dimensional shift in their consciousness from social media, as the labyrinth that has controlled the young generation's mind due to social media destabilizing the young generation's brain. Moreover, this is a virtual crisis that is occurring in society, but steps are being taken to contain this era of uncertainty.