Name Model **Topic** Technology

Area of Investigation How has online social networking influenced human relationships?

Inquiry Path How does social networking affect peer relationships?

In a few sentences, write a synthesis of what you have learned from your research about this inquiry Path. This synthesis should provide an answer to your Inquiry Path, referencing your sources. At this point, you are NOT yet expected to provide your personal perspective. You simply give an account of your findings and analysis of sources. Draw from the Forming and Organizing Evidence-Based Claims tools you have developed for this Inquiry Path and use connecting words to help express the logic of your ideas.

Social networking is affecting society's ideas about what friendship means. Social networking is expanding the number of friends people have. At the same time, social networking is increasing the amount of information people know about their friends.

"It has never been easier to make friends than it is right now, mainly thanks to social networking sites." (Parrack) Social networking sites like facebook, friendster, myspace, and twitter allow us to connect to many more people than we would be able to connect with before social networking. This has been the vision of social networking since its early history. Gordon Goble writes, "as it expanded beyond just a privileged few hubs and nodes, so too did the idea that connected computers might also make a great forum for discussing mutual topics of interest, and perhaps even meeting or renewing acquaintances with other humans." The idea that people just have a few friends is changing. Sites like facebook allow users to change settings so that there are different groups of people like "close friends", "friends". However, the overall number of people you can become friends with is growing.

Social networking sites also allow us to see more information about our friends. Since people share so much information, it is hard to take it all in. "Social networking sites bring out this side in many people, turning them into crashing bores who will detail what they ate for breakfast and the manner in which their body expelled it several hours later." (Parrack) However, more information isn't always a negative thing. Some people see sharing information as a way to empathize with friends.

It's not completely clear how social networking will change our ideas about friendship, although we know we will have many more friends to help us think about this question and they will know much more about us.

BY-NC