Believe it or not social media has had an immense impact on many individuals in the twenty-first century. Society depends on it whether it's to get in touch with family members or to simply gossip about the next trend. However, if not put into efficient use social media can actually result in the destruction of the spelling component of the English language. In order to figure out how much spelling has changed in the English language we must first figure out what group of individuals we want to study. Let’s think about it for a second, most high school children in America walk around with smart phones and/or tablets, focusing on how high school children incorporate the incorrect spelling of words in their daily lives while using social media websites, will help in elaborating the amount of times they misspell a word in any school based work or project. It is rare that you see any high school student on the MTA or any part of NYC reading a book. The lack of reading and writing proper English is going to slowly but surely destroy the basic spelling principals of the English language, mostly through the use if abbreviations. I do not wish to be misinterpreted here because I am aware of the pros social media bring into our fast paced society, such as connecting people from different parts of the world for multiple causes. However, do the ends truly justify the means if its to the detriment of the spelling in the English language? My concern and investigative proposal question is; how has social
media shifted what has been considered to be the correct way of spelling in the English Language, how much have high school students contribute to the changes in spelling based on how much time they are spending on social media websites?

The question aforementioned lingered when reading Patricia Cohen’s articles on digital humanities in conjunction to Christian Vandendorpe’s article “The End of The Page?”. Both pieces present the reader with valid points on technology and how it has actually helped (according to them) with the evolution of the English language. More over, what really struck me was a post I found in the midst of looking for a picture on flickr. In a nutshell the post basically stated that, “I do not read any more, I used to love going to the library and spending hours reading multiple books as a toddler. Now the most reading I do is on twitter and Facebook”. Mind you, the previous statement was written by a young male that did not appear to be a day older than fifteen. This leads to the first problem which is to get the young crowd engaged in reading on a scholarly level. Teachers need not to be so picky when it comes to the context of what their students are reading. The teachers should focus more on allowing their high school students to use the social media as a way to enhance their spelling ability. As oppose to reading to them and nitpicking what is correct spelling, allow them to read as they please, write as they please, to later on allow them to fix any spelling error they make, with the guidance of other articles which have correct spelling. Think about it this way, the essay I am writing can be considered to be written with correct spelling. Now, by the time the for-coming high school student generation reaches my age you better believe their essays will consist of LOL’s and learnt as opposed to learned. I have seen this kind of blasphemy to the English language multiple
times within my college courses. Aside from deconstructing the spelling of the English language social media has also taken away the value we have on the art of literature itself. For instance an individual in this era is more likely to not pick up a specific book just because people online are commenting on how it was an awful read. Even worse, individuals might not be aware of certain books that are out just because their only source of news is social media. Thirdly, social media is a huge source of distraction. I speak from experience when I say I cannot go ten minutes reading an online article without stopping to check my Facebook. How engaged can a reader, writer or scholar be within any specific work of literature if they are constantly on a social media web page? This social media chaos is causing society to become incoherent when it comes to the proper spelling use of English.

In order to further investigate this matter I plan to use several strategical methods. Through the use of web based research I would like to focus on evaluating how much time high school students are spending on social media sites, as oppose to reading any article or book with correct spelling. This information is crucial to my investigation simply because it will validate the idea that the spelling of the English language is being destroyed because of lack of academic reading. Nonetheless, I plan to observe (as much as I can) any high school student, jot down the amount of them on their phones comparing it with the amount of them reading a book (or digital version of a book). By doing so I will prove that my investigation is not bogus and reinforce the idea that this is an actual problem. Within the investigation I will also present the reader with evidence demonstrating the difference between standard English spelling and the spelling in English being used on social media web pages.
Lastly, I need to get further informed on how much of the spelling in English language has changed. I need a deeper understanding on why our high school children would rather use abbreviations and misspelled words in English as opposed to the correct spelling in English. I will observe graphs or charts elaborating on the grades our high children are receiving in schools when it comes to spelling in English. Quantitative data on how much time high school children are spending on social media web pages. I will also find out if there was a decline in the amount of reading done within our high school children society dating back ten years from now.