

# The Dying Art of the Conversation



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In the last decade, the shift of in-person conversations to a digital multi-media sharing online has increased drastically. Long gone are the in-person or phone chitchats, which have been replaced to what I refer to as online show and tells. We keep in touch with friends and family by posting our selfies, our meals, our adventures, our lifestyles, our beliefs—all ultimately sharing our own stories through the plethora of social media platforms.

This technology has increased visibility to everyone's point of view. That could be a good thing or a bad thing. It has leveled the playing field for everyone to be heard. It has created a whole population of fake and/or multiple online identities, aiding some contributors to hide behind screens casting judgement or inciting chaos on the world outside.

Consumers have been empowered to share their experiences, whether at a restaurant, store or with a product. But somehow, perversely, these points of views are shared with the sole objective of either making them or breaking them—whether it may be warranted or not. Then there's the likes, the followers, the views that some people obsess over, and some have even risked their lives at for a chance to increase those numbers.

There is a whole generation of children aspiring to be v-loggers when they grow up because it appears

Large groups have been formed jumping on the bandwagon of social media shaming of others if they don't agree with a particular point of view. It has been both empowering and damaging; allowing movements to be created and shedding light on valid concerns or at times it has crucified some individuals, groups or organizations—altering our judicial system of presumed innocence before guilty. In its most negative impact—it has created virtual mobs.

Wikipedia notes: Herd mentality, mob mentality and pack mentality, also lesser known as gang mentality, describes how people can be influenced by their peers to adopt certain behaviors on a largely emotional, rather than rational, basis.

When did expressing our thoughts get so overwhelming and intolerable? When did we lose our common courtesy to each other and agree to disagree? When did communication get so difficult? The irony is communication didn't get difficult—but it has been altered and us human beings are still figuring all this out. Us human beings with all our flaws, imperfections, good intentions, bad intentions that we voice permanently in cyber space.

Social media has increased the speed of everything: How fast businesses grow as well as how fast they can decline, how quickly we can grow our network of friends and families to total strangers we do not even know if we are looking to increase our numbers. It dictates what is fashionable, what is convenient, what is healthy, what is right, what is justice—all from individual point of views.

As technology increases, the speed to results, whether it is in business or leisure—we should have more time, right? But the true question is what are we doing with our time? Are we truly spending more quality time with our loved ones, doing what we love? Or is our time dwindled away in our own silos of technology? It's an individual's choice, like it's an individual point of view. **CCR**

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to be a fun and an easy way to make a living from the YouTube videos they are mesmerized with.

Lastly, in our society, with the increasing incessant obsession of expressing one's individual point of view taking precedence over listening and understanding first has resulted in break up of friendships and families with the simple pressing of the unfriend button.