# Example First Negative Speech (simplified)

**Define Terms**

Before we present our arguments, the negative team will contend the definition presented by the affirmative team. The opposition stated that technology harming our relationships should be defined as technology having any negative impact. We contend that instead, we should define the topic as whether technology has a greater negative impact on relationships than a positive one. This allows for the teams to debate not simply that technology can be harmful (as logically, anything can be) but whether the negatives outweigh the positives.

**Rebuttal of first point**

**What they said:** The first speaker for the affirmative put forward an argument that children are spending too much time with technology. **Why it’s incorrect/unimportant:** Whilst our team does not doubt that children do spend a larger amount of time with technology than their parents did, we argue that this is a logical development as technology has advanced to improve and enhance the lives of children. **What we think instead:** Simply spending more time on screens does not prove that technology is harmful. In fact, a recent study found students who used a literacy and numeracy app at age 4-5 had average test results of 80% and had learned invaluable skills in recognising letters, sounds and numbers.

**Rebuttal of second point**

**What they said:** The first affirmative speaker also claimed that technology creates barriers to communication. **Why it’s incorrect/unimportant:** This is completely untrue, as technology actually enhances connections by making communication more accessible and frequent. **What we think instead:** A study conducted by Pew Research found that 72% of couples feel that technology has positively impacted their relationship, allowing them to stay connected even when apart. Tools like video calls, instant messaging, and social media provide couples, friends, and families with ways to maintain their bond, especially in long-distance relationships. Thus, when used responsibly, technology supports relationships by fostering continuous connection and communication, strengthening bonds rather than diminishing them.

**Team Line:**

Technology is not to blame for harming relationships. Individuals and society must bear the responsibility. Technology has contributed greatly to our lives and relationships in many ways including academic, cultural and social benefits.

**Team Split:**

I will be arguing two points; initially how social media has helped to develop and enhance our relationships, and secondly, how culture, not technology, is in fact to blame for societal problems. Our second speaker will be arguing that technology has actually improved connectedness in society, and will consider how individual people are to blame for relationship breakdown, not technology.

**First Point:**

**(P)** Social media is beyond a doubt vital to modern technology and communication. **(E)** Worldwide there are 1.86 billion monthly active users of Facebook and 100 million daily Twitter users. These people are spending time connecting, communicating, and enhancing their lives. **(E)** With the push of a button, we can talk to a friend from New York, see photos of a cousin's newborn baby and connect with potential employers. Our team does not doubt that face-to-face communication is best, but it is not always possible. PEW research centre found that 43% of internet users are more likely to be trusting of others. **(L)** This shows that social media can actually encourage closer and more trusting relationships.

**Second point:**

**(P)** Societal problems are caused by cultural shifts rather than technology itself, as cultural values influence how technology is used and perceived. **(E)** Studies have shown that people in cultures that focus on individual success report higher levels of loneliness and mental health issues, not simply due to technology, but because cultural norms discourage connections with community. **(E)** Technology is often blamed for issues that stem from cultural expectations, such as the pressure to achieve and compete. These values encourage people to use technology in ways that may isolate them or prioritize superficial interactions over meaningful connections. Ultimately, it is our cultural environment that shapes whether technology will harm or help us; if our culture promoted more balance and community-oriented values, technology could support those aims instead of being misused. **(L)** Therefore, to address societal problems, we must focus on reshaping our cultural values, as technology is merely a tool that reflects the priorities of the society.