... Social media now affects many aspects of our lives. Let’s examine its impact on four areas: how we get our news, crime, relationships, and shopping.

Consider, for example, how we get our news. It is wonderful how social media spreads information instantly. For example, Twitter and YouTube users learned about the shooting in Aurora, Colorado before news crews could even arrive on the scene. The Red Cross was even using social media to have witnesses inform their families that they were safe (Hughes).

However, the news you receive through social media can not always be trusted. For example, after Hurricane Sandy, a man posted false information on Twitter saying that the New York Stock Exchange was being flooded and that the power company was going to cut off electricity to all of Manhattan. This false report even spread to CNN and the Weather Channel (Laird).