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**Growing up in an age of technology**

**Abstract:**

 Technology is important in being able to shift our lives from being difficult or challenging to convenient and easy to work with. It has helped me in school as well as in my personal life to pursue my goals. It will also help me in the future when I attempt a career in Nursing. It has tremendously shaped my life from the point of growing up to now, and will continue to affect me in the future. It has placed a strain in my life by causing me to rely on it too much but for the most part, it has given me a new outlook on life. It has made me realize just how far we have come in our revolution of a digital age. Technology continues to be helpful in turning us into individuals who are capable of accomplishing anything we set our minds to.

When I was growing up, way before I went to school, I remember my sisters giving me coloring pages and crayons and just letting me do my own thing. I would obviously color the item or person on the coloring page the wrong color and go outside the line of perfection. I also remember just getting a pencil and scribbling on the blank sheet of paper, drawing weird shapes and circles within circles. Moreover, at a young age, I learned to copy what my older siblings would do. While my sister would be sitting down writing an essay on a piece of paper, I would pretend to write on my paper but instead would be drawing while looking back and forth at her.

Mostly everybody surrounding me are oral people. In the Judgment of Thamus, Thamus believes that “Orality stresses group learning, cooperation, and a sense of social responsibility...” (Postman 17) Orality is very important in promoting communication among groups. My family, I would say, are the most oral people I know because the only way to get their point across is through the use of their words. Everybody in my family is also very opinionated so they will make sure to state how they feel about something and won`t regret it. My friends are also very oral people who feel the need to constantly discuss our next gathering as a group and what we will be doing.

I think that a speech can be very nerve-racking at first but once you do it a couple of times, it can actually be an interesting and fun experience. Writing is also fun since it always leaves room for improvement and growth but if the topic is boring or uninteresting then it can have a major impact on the person writing it. I actually learned to fully read and write in my *English as a Second Language* class in elementary school. My teacher, Mr. Johnson, was the one who made me love English class by teaching me everything I needed to know to be successful in English class. I started to read in my first grade of elementary school when the teachers assigned readings to do and provided us with books to take home. I used to read a lot of mystery and adventure books since I love the thrill that comes with it.

My parents` attitude toward literacy include making sure that all of their kids get a proper education and become somebody successful in the future. My dad completed up to an eighth grade education which was the highest level of education back then in Pakistan. My dad has always been proud of receiving an education and so he looks for my sisters and brothers to get one as well. Meanwhile, my mother never received an education since her job as a female was to cook and clean, not to get an education like the men. She has constantly reminded me of how lucky I am to get an opportunity to study in America, when she never got the opportunity at all to get her education. My mom has been the driving force for me to try to obtain my future goal of becoming a Nurse and thanks to her I have received everything else I wanted in my life.

Writing at school was a bit of a challenge since most often the students were expected to write based on whatever topic the teacher chose which could be potentially fun but can also be boring. Reading, however, was good since we got to read several different types of books. At home, reading and writing was fun since I got to read and write on whatever topic I liked. With my friends, my reading and writing was distracted since my friends were the ones distracting me and keeping me busy. At the library, reading and writing was a quiet place to just relax and focus on what I needed to get done.

Some of the earliest technological devices while I was growing up included the Iphone, Samsung galaxy phones, etc. Also, there was HD flat screen televisions as well as tablets and Ipads. The popular gadgets growing up were all of the above. Everybody wanted the new HD television and wanted the biggest television screen even though they couldn`t afford it. Also, everybody wanted the new touch screen phones such as the Iphones which were the newest thing out and looked fun to use. The Ipads and tablets came during a time when everybody wanted things more convenient and easy for work and school.

 The role of television while growing up was for entertainment. To be able to escape from the world around me and go into a world full of hopes and dreams. It was also something to watch when I was bored and had nothing else to do. The role of music included providing a sense of relief and comfort on the go. Whenever I was going somewhere I just listened to music to calm me down and help me focus. It also helped to soothe me when I was doing assignments for school by helping me focus on the big tasks at hand instead of being distracted by the people or things around me.

I grew up mostly using analog technologies such as a tape recorder or film cameras. Then as time moved on and technology changed, I started to change my methods of using technology as well. When they came out, I started to use digital cameras which proved to be easier, less time-consuming, and had a lot more space to hold pictures. It also was more convenient since you could connect your computer to the camera and upload the pictures directly to the computer and save it there which saved a lot of memory space on your camera.

I was manipulated by the use of technology because I saw how others were affected by them which affected me too. Everybody wanted the newest technologies and showed them off to everybody else. Nobody, including me, wanted to be left out so I went out and bought some things to fit in. Also, getting the newest technology was looked upon as the coolest and fun thing to do so obtaining them became the priority. I was also manipulated by digital technologies since they became an everyday habit for me. All the time, there was a need to constantly access it and view what was going on in the world surrounding me.

I love all technologies because they help to improve our daily lives and help to make things easier for us. They are also fast and convenient which is necessary to our constantly busy lives. Nonetheless, sometimes I dislike my phone mostly because I feel that it has consumed my life to the point of no return. Constantly, I feel the need to text and check in on social media which is very time-consuming and exhausting. The most important technology that I would need for the future is my tablet. The main reason why I say this is because everything that I do for school can be done on my tablet. I can do my homework, read the e-book for class, do research, and so much more. My tablet is the most important technology I own which can be used for several purposes regarding school but also for other reasons as well.

The relationship between writing and digital technologies are that they complement each other in being able to get their ideas across. The writing gets ideas down on a page while the digital technology helps to promote ideas being generated through social media, etc. In The Judgment of Thamus, Thamus states “…that writing will be a burden to society and *nothing but a burden*.” (Postman 4) Thamus failed to realize the importance of writing to be able to describe what needs to be said as well as being able to gain knowledge about ourselves and others. However, writing and digital technologies work against each other by trying to be better than one another depending on the audience they are trying to impress. The audience must decide for themselves which method is easier and more convenient for them.

I used to be on social media, mostly Facebook, all the time through my phone but then I realized what a huge part of my life and time it was consuming so I started to cut back on it. Nowadays, I barely go on social media since I want to make sure that I don’t get addicted to it like all my friends are and because I want to be in full control of my life. Usually on social media like Facebook and Twitter, my friends comment on each other’s pictures and posts causing tension. They usually argue about something stupid someone else says about their pictures. For example last week my friend posted a picture of her new hair-do and so my other friend commented on it and said that it looks like a poodle’s fur. Not long after they fought about it, my other friend apologized for saying that comment which offended the first friend. Instances like these are things that should be avoided since some people actually physically fight over it which can lead to devastating results.