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Abstract

Technology and language have created many memorable moments for me since I was a child. Those moments have created new opportunities and experiences for me throughout the years. However technology and language have not only helped create new experiences for me, they have also helped create new relationships. These new relationships have helped shape my personality for what I believe to be is the better. Overall, language and technology have completely changed my life throughout the years.

Creating a New Life With Technology and Language

In retrospect, I realize that technology and language have both played a major role in my life. They have not only helped shape my relationship with certain individuals, but my life as well. However Language, or more specifically orality and literacy, has had less of an impact as opposed to technology. Technology has given me more knowledge and memories by helping in the most difficult times. Although I value one more than the other, it goes without saying that I would not be in the same position that I am in right now if I had not relied on them so much.

My memories of orally communicating as a youth are rather vague, though I know that it has never been my forte. I usually prefered to keep to myself unless I was approached and asked a question. At the time, It had always puzzled me how a person could have a completely opposite personality compared to mine. One person in particular that has made me wonder was my old friend Joel. I met Joel under odd circumstances in my middle school David A. Boody. He first spoke to me, an unknown bystander, during lunch and asked about the weather of all topics. This conversation would later evolve into something greater as we discovered topics which interested the both of us. Joel would later become one of my best friends and continues to be one today. I believe his oral centered personality has had quite a positive effect on me throughout the years as I have become more more open to others. Without his conversations to influence me, I would most likely act differently than I do today.

Another person that has had a great effect on me orally is my John Dewey high school speech teacher Mr. Carito. Of course Mr. Carito placed a heavy emphasis on speech in his class, however he did so by stating its importance in finding jobs and improving our lives. In fact, he had a similar mindset to Thamus, the kind of upper Egypt in that he believed “[o]rality stresse[d] group learning, cooperation, and a sense of social responsibility” (Postman 17). I found this mindset to be troubling at first considering my personality, but I managed to adapt as the classes went on throughout the school year. This would later become evident when speeches about our lives had to be given in front of the classroom. My past experience with Joel and Mr.Carito’s teachings would help me succeed in giving the speech. His class has not only improved my speaking skills, but helped me understand orality in more ways than I thought I ever would.

While oral speech has never been my forte, my literacy skills on the other hand are something that I am proud of. The knowledge and experiences I gained from reading and writing is due to the fact that my parents held it in high regard. They set a positive attitude towards literacy as they knew having an education was a very important part of living a fulfilling life. Another reason as to why they valued it so much is because they have hobbies that revolve around literacy. My father writes and shares poems online for fun, while my mother keeps a journal filled with hundreds of pages describing decades of her life. They have done their best to teach me what they know of the subject and I believe I wouldn’t have the same knowledge of literacy as I do now if they were not so encouraging.

I would later use my parents inspirational words to help guide me when I entered my first year of college at City Tech. There, I started to realize how much I actually love to write. I consider my English 1101 Professor, Professor Bradley Fox to be a big help in discovering this as he personally discussed with me the ways to improve my writing. He also took a different approach in teaching as he was more visual. For example, we visited various locations around the college in order to help us learn about different topics. These trips would somehow relate to what we were currently doing in class. In the end, all of my experiences regarding literacy came full circle when a final research paper about gentrification was due. The end result was something that I feel very proud of as I poured my heart and soul on the research paper. The grade reflects this as I scored the highest grade possible, an A. This marks the first time I have ever gotten an A in English 1101.

However I did not obtain that A by myself, I used technology, or more specifically, music to help aid me. By listening to music, I was able to concentrate more than I ever could without it. I had never listened to music while writing before so it amazed me how well I could do while listening to it in the right mood. For example, I wrote the research paper that was mentioned above in the last two or so days non-stop. I like to think that music helped keep me motivated enough to finish it. As for the type of music that I would listen to while writing, it would usually be some genre of rock, mostly hard rock. Though I am a fan of most genres, I find rock music to help me concentrate the most. Overall, music has played a huge role in my life so far and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Another piece of technology that has helped shape my life is social media. Considering my personality, social media has helped open new doors as I found it easier to talk to individuals online than in person. Since I found it easier to speak using social media, I managed to make more friends online than I ever did offline. Some of the friends that I have made online have later become best friends as I met with them in real life. As for what I generally used to speak to people online with, I mostly used Facebook and Twitter. Though I prefer to speak to my friends in private conversations rather than where everyone can see what I write.

Technology and language have both played a major role in my life. They have helped create new relationships and experiences. Orality, in particular has created a life long friend in Joel. Literacy on the other hand has been made into something that I found to love, writing. While technology has helped me in the most difficult times of my life. I believe it is safe to say that without technology or language, I would not be in the same position that I am in right now if I had not relied on them so much.