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**The Fascinating Realm of Media**

No matter whether it was in a writing, speech, or visual medium, story telling has always been one of the most important aspects of my life. Neither one is better or more difficult to perfect than the other. They are all necessary to our society and the enjoyment we as a people have become accustomed to. I still remember the first day I read a book and the first time I wrote a story and those memories are a major milestone and a gigantic part of who I am today and I couldn’t imagine my life without these mediums heavily involved in my daily activities.

The first time I picked up a pencil I could tell this utensil was something special but I couldn’t exactly figure out why. I was far too young to be able to write a word, let alone a full sentence, but even the scribbles I made meant something. I was conveying a message on paper. It wasn’t legible to my mother or any of the adults around but I knew exactly what it meant and now it existed on a medium outside of my mind. That was what really made me fall in love with reading and writing. The fact that ideas and feelings and dreams and ambitions could be recorded for everyone else to view was an incredible idea to me. I’ve always been a much bigger fan of reading than writing however. In the first grade a small group of kids who were advancing a bit faster than the rest of the class was set aside during the reading time so that we could begin on chapter books. This was one of the biggest personality forming moments in my life.

Reading at that point became a favorite hobby of mine. The thing I loved about reading was that once you knew how to do it everyone was on a level playing field. I also loved video games but friends of mine would buy new consoles and games and it was very easy to feel left behind. Not everyone had the same channels on their cable boxes but we all had access to the same words. It wasn’t a competition between anyone either. We all loved sports but once we started getting older some people became more talented than others. But when it came to books there was only one goal and that was to enjoy a story being told. It didn’t matter how nice your house was or how affluent your neighborhood was, the words that were in those books were exactly the same to everyone who opened them.

I had seen television shows and movies before so I had seen stories be conveyed before but the way I gathered story from an actual book just couldn’t compare. In reading the books I found my imagination running all over the place. No longer was I being led along like in a visual medium, I was being shown the destination but the path taken there was all mine to create. The feeling of reading that book and having it be at my pace was incredible. That was another part of reading that really made me fall in love, the fact that the book was finished as quickly or as slowly as I liked it to be. The length of a television show was always either 30 minutes or an hour. No matter how large the story they were trying to tell was, it had to fit into that time constraint. If the story wasn’t interesting in the slightest then they would have to find a way to beef it up to that amount of time. Books don’t go by a set schedule such as that. I’ve had books I’ve finished in a day and others that have taken me months to finally complete. Stories shouldn’t have to fit within a certain guideline they should be freely told as the author sees fit. However even with those complaints, television still played a major role in my upbringing.

In my house the television was always on. Whether it was showing the news in the morning or it was me watching cartoons when I got home from school, someone was always watching something. The visual medium was so stimulating to a kid like me. The more ridiculous and stupefying a show, the more suited it was for me. It also had a lot to do with the social factor of it. The biggest thing in my life as a young kid was trying to fit in. When there was a show that everyone in school watched and discussed the next day you could be sure that all my friends and I watched it religiously. That was and still is in a way the best part about television. The time you spent discussing an episode of a show was just as enjoyable as watching the show itself. Technology today now plays a major part in how we discuss these kinds of things.

Social media and the internet in general have had a major impact on discussions on media such as television, books and movies. It is not uncommon for people to have live conversations on Twitter while watching a new episode of a television show. Its incredible how technology has brought us together to talk about new media and how often it has a hand in getting new people interested in a movie coming out soon or a show that is captivating all of their followers at the moment. However at the same time it seems to be a little bit scary. In our readings such as “From Technocracy to Technopoly,” we see how technology is taking over our world. You can see this taking place when it comes to discussing media. No longer are people grouping up together in class or at work to talk about the movie they saw that past weekend. They already had a full discussion about it on Twitter the minute they walked out of the theater. We can really see people being less social in real life and instead becoming almost entirely a digital self. This is extremely nerve wracking to me since some of my favorite moments in life have been spent going crazy with a group of my friends over what we had just seen on Pokemon the afternoon before, and just throwing out wild guesses of what was going to happen on the next episode of Dragon Ball Z. Even just the pleasure of doing things in the same room as a friend is going out of the window.

Storytelling was always a major part of my life. I’ve always found myself to be more interested in befriending people who I found to be able to not only tell me a story of theirs, but with the ability to almost bring their tale to a physical plane. These kinds of people are just as talented to me as authors. To be able to bring a story to life in a conversation is astounding to me. This is the difference between an author and the more oral storytellers, the ability to make something mundane a sort of spectacle. In a book the author is bringing you a story that they personally find fascinating and lively, in many conversations the person is telling you about a simple story of their day or why they were late or what they just saw on the train an hour ago, and the people who have a knack for it can make that just as engaging as an epic tale. The biggest section of oral storytelling to me however would have to be music.

Music has always been possibly the largest influencing factor in my life. I have numerous friends who I have built relationships with solely over our common interest of a certain artist or album. The first memory I have of listening to music is when my brother first bought the album “All Eyez On Me” by 2Pac. He played it so often on his stereo that the CD eventually stopped working completely. Even though I was far too young to understand the content of the songs and their lyrics, I could feel something. I wasn’t exactly sure what it was but I knew that almost every song made me feel something. That was what made me fall in love with music. That feeling you can’t explain but you know that you’re loving every single moment you’re listening to the music. Every day that I leave my house I always make sure that I have my headphones with me. Not because I think I’ll get bored but because I’m always chasing that feeling. It is almost like an aura of pure bliss that’s created by the sounds and surrounds you.

I’ve always been a huge fan of video games ever since I can remember. The best times memories of my life are playing my brother in sports games for hours into the night on weekends. However experiences like this are becoming so much less common with the advent of the internet. Everyone is so obsessed with playing a game online that many games don’t even have the option to play multiplayer offline anymore. Many kids nowadays are growing up not knowing the pure joy of physically looking at your friend while you throw a come from behind touchdown pass in Madden or when you beat them with an inch of health left in Street Fighter. In the reading “From Tools to Technocracy”, we see that the change from tools to technocracy was meant mainly to assist in the things us humans were already doing. Things were being created to make our experience more enjoyable but sometimes things just go too far. In my vision playing a game with a friend on the same couch was almost the equivalent of a tool using society and the advancement of online gaming and the almost whole elimination of playing offline with a buddy is our jump into a technocracy since even with all the negatives there are many obvious reasons why being able to play with people across the world is a great idea. The only thing I fear is what comes next? What is going to be the technopoly of gaming? Will it be too late before we realize it?