**Introduction to Language and Technology**

**Language and Technology Narrative**

**Professor Leston**

The Language and Technology Narrative ask you to reflect upon your relationship to language and technology through the years. In your paper, make sure you discuss your relationship with orality, literacy, and technology. Here are some things to consider:

* Memories you have prior to learning to read and write. Do you remember playing with pencils and crayons, scribbling, wanting to write?
* People you know who are primarily oral people.
* Your thoughts about speech versus writing and why you have them.
* When and how you learned to read and write. When and what did you read for your own purposes?
* Your parents’ attitudes concerning literacy.
* What was reading and writing like in different locations? At school, home, church, with friends, your room . . . .
* What were some of the earliest technological devices you can remember?
* What was the role of television in your childhood?
* What was the role of music?
* How did you begin using digital technologies? How would you separate these from analog technologies?
* What were the popular gadgets growing up? How were you exposed to them?
* In what ways were you manipulated by the use of digital technologies?
* How did other people influence your attitudes using technology?
* What are the technologies you can’t stand? Why? The ones you love? Why?
* Which are the most important technologies that you believe you need to use for the future?
* Discuss the relationship that you see between writing and digital technologies. In what ways to they complement each other? How do they work against each other?
* Discuss your life on social media. How do you use it? Have you ever gotten into an argument or said something that you didn’t want to say when it was too late? Have you seen this kind of thing happen to others?

After you write your narrative, look for opportunities to connect to passages from the readings/films that we have read and watched so far. **Make sure that you incorporate at least two references to the readings or films we’ve done in class.**

Other requirements:

* The paper should be completed as a Word file. It should be Standard MLA format. 1 inch margins, 12 pt. font Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing.
* The length of the actual narrative should be 3-5 pages.
* When it’s ready upload it to the Blog as an attachment. Title your post Tech-Lit Narrative, but give the paper itself a unique title.
* On the first page, you will need to write an abstract. An abstract is a synopsis of the paper coming. An example is below:
* However, write the abstract *after you’ve written the paper.*

Abstract

Digital technologies have been a significant part of my life since I was a small child, making me difficult to imagine a world without these massive innovations that we take for granted today. Throughout the years, I have changed, adapted and moved as digital technologies have shifted, not unlike sands shifting underneath our feet. After discussing my formative years and love of music, the paper goes on to discuss failed attempts to learn to program in high school and my obsession with Twitter. It was through my failed attempt at programming where I came to understand how much we are shaped by technologies. I go on to link this attempt to Douglas Rushkoff’s book *Program or Be Programmed.* Now I am a firm believer that because people spend more and more time linked to computers and devices that humans risk becoming programmed drones.