

The thought process of Melody

Communication is something that I've found to be highly important. We use it to understand and connect with each other. I find miscommunication can be a huge problem nowadays. In certain ways I feel that half of communication requires a deep understanding of emotion and body language, which can cause for a few problems in the technological aspect of communication. I believe that in order to grow and use our recourses to its full potential, we must have reliable means to speak with each other. There are three main ways we can do this. That is with orality, literacy, and through the use of technology. But none of these can work without a basic understanding of who you are speaking to and what you are trying to get across.

Growing up in the era of technology has been a huge blessing and a curse. I remember in elementary school it was always difficult for me to focus on books that I had to read for school. On my free time I found that reading what I liked had also kept my focus. My mother always taught me that it was important to read. It wasn't until middle school that I had are of an interest in reading. I would read on this platform called "Wattpad". I read a bunch of fan fictions, which are essentially fictional stories written by fans of a specific person(s), usually a celebrity. I had found my own joy in reading. Many of the readers and writers on this app could also communicate with each other and comment on different parts of the stories. This also encouraged me to write more and to be creative. I would write stories and try to be extremely creative with everything I wrote. It was fun, but none of us were very trained at writing

something with proper grammar or using phrases properly. It gave us a safe space to explore our creativity and to write down exactly what we were imagining. We transformed thought into writing and had a place to share that with others.

Although I had a good connection with reading and writing with technology, I found that other aspects dealing with orality, were a bit more complicated. Growing up, a lot of my family members would speak Spanish. It was a language that was used a lot in my family, but I had never been taught how to speak it. I could understand certain words but not much. It made me think about if a person had to write an essay in another language, foreign to themselves, it would be extremely difficult connection orality to literacy. In Thomas Kuhn and *The Revolution in Teaching of Writing*, it is stated that "we cannot teach students to write by looking only at what they have written. We must also understand how that product came into being, and why it assumed the form that it did. We have to try to understand what goes on during the internal act of writing and we have to intervene during the act of writing if we want to affect its outcome." This spoke to me because in order to connect the difference between orality and literacy, it starts with understanding the connection between the two and working harder to explain the problem rather than just pointing out what the problem is. We have to dig deeper to understand each other to really figure out how to help and make productive change.

In creating this essay I've considered my relationship with writing and the use of digital technology. It is very easy to get distracted when trying to focus on what to write

and how to formulate this essay. I would occasionally check my phone and become distracted. I've noticed it was easier for me to write the essay down on paper and then type it, than to immediately type out my thoughts. Writing physically allows my mind to flow easily and keeps me focused because I'm interacting with pen and paper. There is a strong mind-body connection that I find digital technology blocks. When I am done brainstorming and writing, I can then type it out into my computer. Typing it out allows me to read my work in my head and helps me decide if what I wrote makes any sense or not. They occasionally work together well because writing it out onto paper adds a great basis for brainstorming and letting my mind flow. As humans it is in our nature to work with our hands. When I am writing I can feel the pain from the intensity of how much and hard I am working. It encourages me to write more and think more. Typing on a computer can become tedious and does not really challenge you to think about what you are really saying. I will always write my work down first before I touch the keyboard.

In Neil Postman's "Technopoly, The Surrender of Culture to Technology", He states " New technologies alter the structure of our interests: the things we think about. They alter the character of our symbols: the things we think with. And they alter the nature of community: the arena in which thoughts develop." I think Postman is correct. New technology and inventions really do affect and change society completely. They are not to be taken lightly, but I do think change can be a really good thing and as a society we must learn to accept change and to deal with it in the best way we can. No one truly knows how new technology will impact us as a whole, but in order to fully

grow we must invite change into our lives with no expectation towards the new. We can only truly have hope and an idea of what this new change can bring for all of us.

Resources

Postman, Neil. Essay. In Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology. New York: Knopf, 1993. <https://interesi.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/technopoly.pdf>

Hairston Maxine. 1982. "The Winds of Change: Thomas Kuhn and the Revolution in the Teaching of Writing." College Composition and Communication 76–88. <http://cwpfairfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/hairston-and-winds-of-change.pdf>