Length: 800-1000 words

Analytical/Expository Essay

Shared Assignment: How Has Technology Changed Human Interaction?

Research Requirements: 2 sources (at least one must be from the Essay 2 reading list)

Write an analytical expository essay of 800-1000 words on one of the following topics under the broad theme of technology and human interaction. These topics are drawn from and suggested by the assigned readings on this topic (see page two for a list of readings and the Essay #2 Source Packet for a copy of each reading. We will be viewing sections of the Frontline documentary in class, but it is also available at the PBS website).

This essay must cite a minimum of three outside sources and must give credit to these sources using MLA documentation standards (including internal references and a Works Cited page). Use your 6th edition Pocket Style Manual as a guide for citing sources.

1. How has technology changed the nature of friendship? (What does it take to be a “true friend”? A “friend” on Facebook? Why is the difference so big? Why do we “unfriend”?)
2. What is the impact of technology on romantic relationships? (Does having a relationship with a “digital footprint” change the level of commitment? How does technology change how people seek relationships, how they date, how they engage in and/or resolve conflicts or how they sustain their connections while apart?)
3. Is technology a threat to human interaction? (Does technology distract us from genuine human interaction? Will our desire for more connectedness ultimately lead us to loneliness and isolation? Or does technology actually improve/enhance interaction?)
4. Has technology changed cultural norms? (Has it influenced how we meet and form communities? Has it changed the way we learn? Has it caused social breakdown? Does the word, “friend” even mean what it did twenty years ago?)
5. How has technology affected school bullying (or cyberbullying)? (Has the arena changed? Are the weapons the same? How does anonymity factor in? Have we placed too much restriction on the freedoms we allow our children, and has this caused them to lash out toward one another?)
6. Are older generations being forced to adapt to new ways of communication even though they might view them as negative? (Has technology caused a generation gap? Can high school seniors and senior citizens find common ground anymore?)
Essay Assignment #2 Reading List


