E earth food shelter and internet media essay

Internet has made way into our daily lives and we use technology throughout our day. It has become highly important for people since internet is considered " the medium of the future". The Internet has created numerous ways for us to interconnect and share information with the each other. " By 2000 it was estimated that the number of adults using the Internet exceeded 100 million in the United States alone" (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition). It is evident that Internet has long been and will continue to revolutionize the way we live. However, I believe how it has changed our lives is a debatable topic. We all hugged technology dearly- but how often do we take note of the dark side of it. Although there are numerous aspects in which Internet has changed our lives positively, there still are some negative aspects of this Super Information Highway that we usually don't take into account. Internet provides us with both facts and independence. As irresistible as they may seem, both can be very dangerous if not availed moderately. Once you log in there is so much to discover that you find it almost impossible to ever log out. People have started using this freedom in wrong ways. They say things which they won't even think of saying in real lives. People create fake identities online and carry it as if it is their own. Instead of bringing us closer to each other, as we believe, internet has rather separated us from each other. I am not arguing that internet is a bad influence, it is just abused. The " Internet-Button" is a real joy and usually free. People click on it pointlessly, downloading stuff, which they are not sure is a malware or is just a fraud. We cannot even be sure that we are alone i. e. whether we are the only one using that computer at that time or is someone using our data? In order to elevate your security level you have to set up a firewall or purchase an anti-virus program. Then you are required to

be updating them regularly. All of this requires you to spend considerable amount of money to prevent your device from hacker attack, making the process highly cost intensive. There always will be a new virus and new softwares to prevent it. Hence, your investment will never end. On Social networking sites people lie about their emotions, their appearances, jobs etc. One can never be sure if he's talking to a woman, a man or it might be someone he is already acquainted with. There always remains a doubt. The doubt is the reason why people cannot form strong relationships over the web. Some people only exist in blogs and on social networking sites with avatars as their pictures. Those people have given up their real and private life for " cyber-life." People do this for the freedom of speech that is being offered. But, this virtual self will never come across the experiences of real life. Internet has altered our social behavior, habits and abilities. People no longer interact with each other socially. Interaction is web-based only. For example, text speak has limited our abilities in real world. Internet has made people procrastinate so much that they cannot handle leaving their computers and getting out of bed. Most of the people have no idea how a typewriter works or what it even looks like. Internet has not only made us lose our common know-hows but also our " genetic abilities." Computer has turned into our guardian, library, dictionary, bank, school and what not. There is nothing that a computer cannot do for us. For children, computer is like a playmate and for teenagers it is like a partner. One of the major issues with the World Wide Web is information flooding. Aristotle stressed on " ethos, pathos and logos". " Ethos" here refers to credibility and information on the web lacks that. If we look up a bank's website we won't be sure if giving in our credit card information will be safe for us or not. This is because

we won't be able to ascertain the ingenuity of the website and how trustworthy it is because of the scams that take place. Newspapers have been replaced by e-papers. We can subscribe to magazines, newsletters and papers on our iPads, iPhones and almost any device that we have. People do not even read newspapers in the morning. They just sit in front of a computer and pull up the latest news in seconds while having a cup of tea. Students don't buy textbooks anymore because they can easily get the electronic version of the book for cheaper. In past, students would have to go to the library and find resourceful information for their research papers but now the can just surf through the web and get tons of knowledge on the subject. The credibility is still questionable. Thus, the act of plagiarizing has become more common than ever before. Internet has adverse effects on children because nowadays every child has a laptop, iPod or a phone. A few decades ago a child first toy would be a rattle but now he gets a phone for his first birthday. A two years old knows how to zoom in and zoom out on an iPhone. Since, children have exposure to internet; they must be educated on using it wisely. I am eighteen and I have no idea what is a proxy, but my 12 year brother knows everything there is to know about it. Children need to take the right approach towards using the internet. Internet is not a replacement for real life and real friends. It is parents' duty to educate their children. Children are kids not adults. If you tell them not to google stuff – for example – pornographic sites, you should know that now they will for look at it for sure. Kids are usually very inquisitive and parents must take them by the collar and sit next to them to supervise their kids. Babies are not born with social abilities. Their parents, environment and the society teaches them. Furthermore, when adults can't be certain of the stuff posted on the

web, how can children be? It is therefore not a suitable standard for cultivating children. They are too young to be sure which information is " good" and which is " bad" without proper guidance. The World Wide Web has become anti-productive because of what it leads to. Our computers and phones can do almost anything for us and we have become lazy, unproductive and antisocial. Why go to the library when I can access the book online? Our time is saved but we lose out on being social. Also, we get distracted and off track easily. While typing this paper I have spent more time conversing with my contacts and surfing through the net. Stealing online is very simple and common. We, being humans, are never satisfied with free stuff because we always want more. Therefore, we steal it off the web like video files, text files, music and movies. If the concerned authorities would start arresting people for cybercrime, pretty much everyone will end up in jail. In today's society people believe that they are more secure than they were ever before because we have our rights. However, I feel that we have lost our privacy and security as the world has progressed and modernized. In the name of modernization we are giving up our right to privacy and personal life. We are constantly being surveilled by people through internet, security cameras, social media and social networking sites. Each one of us has developed the urge to build internal cops and ' watch' people. People use Facebook, Twitter and other networking sites for keeping tabs on others. Often they do it for fun or out of boredom. They build and cultivate their " covers" when others try to watch and judge them because they try to analyze their personality by reading their surface features. Isn't it unfair to judge a book by its cover? But we still keep doing it. We believe that our information is secure, and we agree blindly to the " terms and

conditions" without even reading them. Believe it or not those terms are 100% enforceable. People either tick the check box because they bound to or they really don't care. They give permission to the marketers and advertisers to use their information and personal stuff as a product in commerce. Christensen explains how people set up cameras around their houses to watch other people for fun: "… other people in the neighborhood installed their own cameras, planning eventually to live-cast the view at www. adamsblock. com under the name OurBlock. tv." Security cameras were meant for " security" but they no longer function in that way. We do the same when we are free and have nothing to do. We watch web posts, read blogs, see videos and surveil people around us as well. Social media and the use of the internet is producing harmful effects of which we are barely aware. In the past folks were more accustomed to the traditional type of surveillance which is done by the government. But the peer-to-peer surveillance is more of a threat because it can invade our personal life which traditional surveillance wouldn't do much about. This not only drives us to a paranoia but also makes us pay more attention to our " covers" which others judge. Often, we create these covers –intended for people to judge us. Moreover, people use these covers as a moral compass to switch off their evil side and let others come in contact with only the good part of them. As peer-to-peer surveillance increases, this desire of people intensifies. We create a beautiful scenery and make it available for people to access it, in order for them to judge us and our lives. We make their eyes see what we want them to see.