

Lost in the digital world



Lost in the Digital World Technology is everywhere in today's society. It is how we communicate with others, sense of communication and even how we turn in our essays for an English class. It is beneficial to the world in so many ways but at the same time it also has many negative effects. In the article "Can You Hear Me Now?" by Sherry Turkle, she explores how technology is affecting our daily lives, especially communication. Before the article even begins there is a quote "Thanks to technology, people have never been more connected—or more alienated" (270).

The author explains that through technology our bond with communication is getting weaker and more people rely on technology to control their lives, rather than having control of their own lives. First gives the example of her being at a conference and not a single person can get off technology to even pay attention to what they even came to the conference for. In my personal opinion it shows that we have lost respect for people and have gained more respect for technology and what is going on with the digital world more than the real world. Every once in a while audience members give the speaker some attention, lowering their laptop screens in a kind of digital curtsy" (270). How can we expect someone to listen to us if we cannot even pay attention to them in person? Technology is often the easy way out and it shows through business meetings, families, and how kids are being raised in society in this time. A business meeting is a very personal thing. It is not just what you talk about but it is also how the person looks, communicates in person, and just that vibe you get when you know how to handle people. Consultants used to talk to one another as they wanted to give presentations; now they spend that time doing email" (271). Technology is

so impersonal that it makes people unconnected personally. I agree with the author as she criticizes the technology world. “ We are connected, tethered, so important that our physical presence is no longer required” (272). The fact that we do not communicate with people on a deeper level can cause makes trusting people too easy.

Texting and emailing a coworker is so convenient for the life of a business person, but are you really going to get the same response or conversation when you could just do it in person? Not only are our careers getting taken over by technology, but our entire lives. The first thing I do whenever I wake up every morning is to check my cell phone to see who had texted me last night while I was sleeping. It never was brought to my attention on how horrible this habit is until I read this article by Turkle. “ I look at my watch to see the time. I look at my BlackBerry to get a sense of my life” (273).

A sense of life should not be a hand-held-size of internet and the people that consume your life. A sense of life is how you live it and the decisions and choices that you make. The personal connections that you have with the people you love and respect and most of all trust. I am also guilty of texting my mom when we are in the same house. Even though these ways of communication are so easy and most of the time effective; we lose a personal connection and reflect on just pure laziness. A cellphone gives someone a source of protection because they know someone is just a click away. Kids get cell phones from their parents. In return they are expected to answer their parents’ calls. On the one hand this arrangement gives teenagers new freedoms. On the other they do not have the experience of being alone and having to count on themselves; there is always a parent on

speed dial. ” (275). There are so many reasons why kids would need cell phones but if the world got by without them before, can they do it again? Technology with adolescents is such a touchy subject just because of how easy it is to abuse that power of connecting with the entire world.

With being so impersonal in the world we have less fear of what we are showing to the public. Even though we are not communicating with people, they can simply get on a website to see what you have been doing for the past twenty-four hours of your life because of how little privacy is online. “ If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear” (277) this quote is so impersonal because you are “ hiding” something or simply do not want other people to know your personal life should not mean that you have anything to fear.

In the past ten years technology has advanced tremendously at a rapid rate and it will be crazy to see where it takes us in the next ten years. I am one to hope that it can become more personal and things more like Skype come into play. Reliance on technology has come too far out of hand and society would be a much better place if more people focused on how to run their lives versus who texted us. We need to focus on building stronger connections with the people around us instead of the connection with the devices in our hands. ?