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The power of cell phones!

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The power of cell phones!

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"We live in a fast paced world that is continuously changing; therefore, technology must also change with this way of living. Cell phones have become the universal means of communication not only for adults but also for children at the Elementary level. These devices have become an accessory and have become just as important as remembering to put a shirt on in the morning."



Rachael Drojak and Jacob Swartwout

*"I fear the day when technology will surpass our humanity. The world will then be populated by a generation of idiots." -
Albert Einstein*

The power of cell phones!

We live in a fast paced world that is continuously changing; therefore, technology must also change with this way of living. Cell phones have become the universal means of communication not only for adults but also for children at the Elementary level. These devices have become an accessory and have become just as important as remembering to put a shirt on in the morning.

Motorola was the first company to make a call using a cellphone in 1973; by 1987 over one million people in the United States were using cellphones. Now in the year 2013 over 7 billion people globally are using cellphones. Cellphones can be very useful devices that have many different uses. For example, they can be used when we are lost, catching up with a family member, and what can be more convenient than shooting someone a text message when a phone call may be too long or inconvenient at that point in time. Not only do cellphones make communication easier; with the development of smartphones we are now able to search the internet and use GPS to get us almost anywhere. These devices let us leave home and communicate with our friends and families with ease and many people no longer have home phones. Approximately 57 million adult homes are without landlines and only have cellular devices. It is strange to think where society would stand if cellphones had not developed into what they have become today.

With these advancements in technology, society itself has begun to base its needs and wants around it. Cellphone laws have been written over the years due to an increase in usage while driving. However, there have been many ways found to avoid these laws and still allow drivers to continue their usage. For example, manufacturers have created cars that use "hands free" capabilities; for example, sending a text message, calling, or even selecting songs and playlists to listen to while driving. These features may seem safe, but some people still believe it is necessary to use mobile devices while they are driving vehicles. Where do we draw the line between technology ruling us or us ruling technology?

The picture below shows several teen girls all on their phone, including the driver. Car accidents caused by texting while driving are horrific but real occurrences. In 2011, at least 23 percent of auto collisions involved cell phones; this equates to 1.3 million crashes. What will it take for people to realize the severity of cell phone usage while driving?



Humans are naturally social beings that seek to develop relationships in their cohort. There is a sense of less verbalization between people and more of a technology based socialization amongst us. Communication still exists and is faster than ever; however, face to face interactions seem to be dwindling with time. There are those who prefer text messages over phone calls because verbal interactions make them feel uncomfortable. Text messaging and simple phone calls lead to a lack of social cues and emotion. Take for example this picture below.



A group of friends out for a bite to eat pass the time on their phones rather than catching up on their day or enjoying one another's company. Even when walking the hallways of the St. John Fisher campus people can be seen indulging in their phones and ignoring their friends next to each other. Text messages take away the social cues and emotion that comes with a normal conversation between people. Even though you can use punctuation and even send different icons that represent emotions they do not hold the same value as the real emotion. Text messages can come across sounding angry when they are not or happy when they are not. Therefore, it is hard to interpret the meaning of text message which can lead to confrontation. Text messages have become an impersonal way of communication that has driven society apart. When speaking with Amanda; Rachael's eldest sister, she stated, "I think phones were still just phones; when they were only used to call and text." The cellphones today have many different functions and applications that make them far advanced than they used to be. There is even an application called "I'm Rich" for people that can afford to pay the price

of the app that costs \$999.99. This application does not serve any type of function but to let the person know that they are rich enough to afford it. Generations to come will be exposed to far more technology than we have today. This means that future generations will become less capable of developing relationships without their phones. The way that relationships had been formed in the present will become a thing of the past.

Children at the elementary school level have begun using cellphones as a means of communication. However, parents have allowed their children to use the internet, text message, call, and use applications. Phones are not just a distraction for older generations but now fixate the minds of the youth. Children use their phones during class and pay less attention to their course material and teachers. Both Rachael and I work at a daycare center where the children as young as 5 years of age would rather play games on their iPhones and iPads rather than play in the gym or go outdoors with their peers. Years from now they may not be able to hold a conversation with each other because they rely so heavily on technology now.



Cellphones are a great piece of technology that makes communication much easier. However, they could lead to a complete shift in how our society functions in the future. Advances in technology have begun de-socializing our society and making relationships less intimate. Next time you are with a group of friends, family members, or just waiting in line somewhere take a look around you and see how many people are actually talking to each other or indulging in their technology.



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