The Impact of Modern Technology

An assignment analyzing and evaluating our uses of electronic devices

**Introduction**In our ongoing articles surrounding the book *Fahrenheit 451*, we have been reading about various forms of technology and how they have impacted our society, both positively and negatively. In this assignment, you will read about some very familiar forms of modern technology and answer questions about the articles. Use the questions as a way to frame your reading of the articles and focus on the important issues we are discussing. The point of this assignment is not to merely read and copy what the articles are arguing, but to ***contribute your own original thoughts*** in an answer that synthesizes multiple arguments.

For each article, click on the link to read the article and use the questions to focus your response to their information. Type in your answers, save as your own document, and submit the assignment electronically on our [turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) class portal to receive credit.

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**The Boob Tube**

* [Television: A Blessing and A Curse](http://www.eprtv.com/) - An essay on the impact of television on society.
1. In the first paragraph, the author states positive aspects of television. List three of them.
2. In the first paragraph, the author states negative aspects of television. List three of them.
3. The author states certain variables that determine the difference between what we see and what we do. Which of them do you feel is most important towards determining whether a society imitates what it sees on television?
4. What role does the author assign to parents? In detail and using personal examples, how do your own parents determine your interaction with television?
5. The author discusses options for limiting the impact of violent television on children. Which of these do you most agree with and why? Provide extensive details.
6. What does the author say about the impact of television on social interaction? Do you agree or disagree? Explain in extensive detail.

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**'Can I Listen to My IPod?'**

* [The brief history of Portable Audio Players](http://scienceillustrated.com.au/blog/culture/the-brief-history-of-portable-audio-players/) - A series of facts about the evolution of personal music players and their impact on society.
1. When was the first portable music player created (hint: it was a cassette player)?
2. What was strange about having portable music? Explain in your own words.
3. What replaced the cassette player and in what year?
4. When did the first digital music player appear?
5. When did the first MP3 player appear?
6. What surprised you most about the development of the IPod? Explain in detail and also share why it was surprising.
7. What is your favorite aspect of having personal music devices?
8. Evaluate the negative impact of personal music players. Explain this negative impact in a paragraph with specific reasons.

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**Switch to Silent Mode**

* [Cell Phones' Negative Impact on Society](http://teenink.com/hot_topics/what_matters/article/200172/Cell-Phones-Negative-Impact-on-Society/) - An essay by a teen journalist on the negative impact of cell phones on our society.
1. In the third paragraph, the teen mentions how people act with phones on the street. Analyze what she is talking about in your own words.
2. Also in the third paragraph, the author states a great effect of having such advanced cell phones. Explain what she is talking about in your own words.
3. Evaluate the “emotionally hurtful aspects” of cell phone use. Do you agree with the author? Have you personally experienced or witnessed the effects of this use of cell phones?
4. Identify a specific negative impact on social interaction (family and friends) that the author argues and quote it. Discuss that impact and whether you agree with it in specific detail.
5. Write a brief letter responding to this author. Specifically, agree or disagree with the author and use specific arguments to help her case or to argue against it. Your letter should be 2-3 paragraphs.