

Even though most of us aren't fully tapping into the potential of our minds, there's something intriguing about the comfort we find in having a search bar right at our fingertips. It's like the internet has become a part of who we are, something we can't imagine living without. Kevin Kelley talks about this in his essay *Technophilia*, where he argues that the web is a part of us now, like an added sense. And while I get it, being able to find any bit of information anytime you want is a game changer. But the truth is, the constant entertainment of the internet comes with some serious downsides. Sure, we can look up anything, but the need for instant answers has taken a toll on our ability to focus and think deeply. We're so hooked on quick fixes and instant gratification that we've lost the art of true reflection. Not only has it become a part of us it's also distracting us from connecting with our own thoughts in a meaningful way. Nicholas Carr in his article "Is Google Making Us Stupid" believes that we are starting to have a relationship with the internet, making it a negative impact for our brains.

**Commented [KA1]:** I think this section of your intro is really strong and can be reworded and placed at the end of this paragraph to ultimately become your working thesis.

What bothers me even more is how technology is starting to limit our potential. It's great that we can learn anything within a couple seconds, but I feel like it's also making us lazy when it comes to thinking for ourselves. Instead of sitting with a problem and working through it, we just Google the answer or ask chat gpt for a solution. We're getting everything handed to us so fast that we don't take the time to really think or dig deeper into a topic. We expect instant gratification for everything, and it's like we've forgotten how to be patient or persistent. I wonder if, by constantly seeking the quickest way to get things done, we're actually losing the ability to grow and challenge ourselves. I just don't want to see us forget how to think critically or lose the drive to explore new ideas because we've gotten so used to everything being right in front of us. If we keep letting technology shape how we think, I'm afraid it might hold us back from reaching our true potential.

**Commented [KA2]:** I think if you want to also talk about potential add it into your thesis. For example, you could say something like, "The need for instant answers has taken a toll on our ability to focus and think deeply, which is ultimately limiting our human potential."

As a teenager constantly surrounded by screens, I often find it hard to focus, and the never ending flow of information can feel overwhelming at times. It's hard to stay present when there's always a notification buzzing or something new to scroll through. I've noticed it's not just me, many others have the same struggle. It feels like our attention spans have gotten shorter, and tasks that require more focus can seem like they take forever. I think this issue hits kids harder than adults. Sherry Turkle touches on this, saying, "It is a struggle to get children to talk to each other in class. These students seem to understand each other less" (Turkle 344). Kids today are growing up with screens as their main way of connecting, which is making it harder for them to talk face to face or read the emotions of the people around them. The constant use of technology is affecting how we communicate and empathize, leaving us feeling more disconnected from one another.

**Commented [KA3]:** I think you have some good thoughts here. I think you could strengthen this section by adding a quote from one of the other perspectives we have to work with. Do they agree with you? Disagree? Make it complicated?

I believe that the impact of all this screen time goes deeper than just communication issues; it's actually changing the way our brains work. Studies show that the more time we spend on screens, the more likely it is that our brains will start to rewire. We're losing the ability to focus for long periods and becoming more impulsive, constantly jumping from one thing to the next.

**Commented [KA4]:** At this point, you have introduced Kelly, Carr, and Turkle. Make sure you only use two other voices in this essay.

It's like our brains are being trained for instant gratification, and anything that requires patience or deep thought feels harder. For kids, who are still growing and learning how to process emotions and connect with others, this constant digital distraction can be even more damaging. It's like technology, which was supposed to help us connect, is actually building walls between us. As we rely more on our screens, we're losing the ability to really engage with each other and the world around us. It's becoming clear that our mental health is at risk, and if we don't find a better balance, the effects on our brains are only going to get worse.

Turkle's idea that "we think with the objects we love, and we love the objects we think with" speaks to the deep, almost intimate relationship we develop with the technologies around us. Many of us find ourselves attached to the tools we use most often, whether it's a phone, a favorite app like tik tok, or even something like a journal. These objects become more than just something we use, they shape the way we think, express ourselves, and interact with the world. For example, someone might prefer writing in a physical notebook because it helps them process their thoughts more clearly, while a phone might serve as a constant source of connection and inspiration. These technologies aren't just external tools, they become integral to our mental and emotional processes, helping us organize our ideas, manage our lives, and connect with others. In a way, we don't just think through them, but we come to love them because they help us make sense of our world much easier.

**Commented [KA5]:** I think this is a strong couple sentences. You should maybe consider making this a topic sentence as I feel like this was the main point of this paragraph.

**Commented [KA6]:** Make sure you are strongly setting up your quotes before going straight into them.

**Commented [KA7]:** I think this section is getting a little off topic from your essay. In this section you are talking about our attachment to materialistic items, however this idea isn't developed anywhere else in your paper and doesn't relate to your claim. I would try to make sure all your paragraphs can be connected back to your thesis.

**Commented [KA8]:** Steven, this is a great start and can become a well crafted essay. I urge you to rework your introduction and make sure you create a thesis that answers the prompt. This will help you really organize the rest of your essay. Currently, you have some really strong ideas scattered throughout your writing, but I feel like you are jumping around different focal points. I really like your idea about tech making us need instant gratification and how this is leading to an inability to focus and reflect which is ultimately limiting our potential. In addition, make sure you are only working with two other texts in your writing. It will actually make it easier. Once you have those texts pick, make sure you are putting quotes from each in conversation with one another. When do they agree with each other? When do they disagree? Do you agree or disagree with what they are saying? Keep up the good work!