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English 110

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Technology is affecting our daily lives through conversation and how we interact with people.

The message that Turkle, a professor of Social Studies of Science and Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in her passage “the Empath diary”, she's trying to come across the fact that technology has had a big negative impact in today's society and has made people lack empathy. But I don't fully agree with that statement.

**Commented [1]:** This is a good start to opening your argument, but when you say that you do not agree with that statement, go further into why you do not agree with Sherry Turkle. Also, it would be better to fully talk about Turkle's argument in her essay "The Empathy Diaries" before going into why you do not agree with her.

Going deeper into what the basis of a conversation is, when two or more people exchange words on their thoughts, feelings or even ideas. I somewhat agree with Turkle's idea of a conversation. I

think that being able to have a conversation is very important. Like it says “Conversation helps students build narratives.” (347). But the part that I disagree on is when Turkle states that

**Commented [2]:** This is where it would be a good idea to focus on what you disagree/agree with when relating to Turkle. Specifically, what does Turkle think about conversation and then compare it to what you think.

“because of technology people lack empathy”. Humans show empathy when they show compassion to someone else, and helping others. It holds value on the human experience because when you tend to do those things it really helps express to others the type of person you are towards them. And not only that I tend to believe that technology can help spark up conversation.

I don't completely disagree with Turkle about some people lacking empathy due to overuse of technology but like I said before there is a positive and negative to that statement. A good example of someone using technology to start up a conversation is like when you see someone's post on social media and you end up seeing them later that day and bring up a conversation on

that post. It's still important that people understand how to conversate with others because if you avoid talking to people, it can leave you feeling really isolated and lonely. Over time, it might mess with your mental health, making stress or anxiety worse. You could miss out on chances to learn new things or connect with others, and problems might pile up because you're not talking things out. It also makes it harder to understand and manage your own feelings, and the feelings of others. You might start feeling frustrated and your worldview might shrink because you're not hearing other perspectives.

I do think age factors into this whole turkles message on technology. I believe that once you hit a certain age you understand perspective on balancing these two things. You look at it more as a beneficial tool to communicate with others. Maturity really shapes how we use technology. As we people get older, you start to understand its role in their lives in a more thoughtful way. They often get better at in person interactions, realizing how important it is to have meaningful conversations face to face. As we get older, we tend to appreciate the depth of real human connections more, and we see the value in spending quality time with others, rather than just relying on online communication. For instance, we may use technology to keep in touch with loved ones who are far away, but they also prioritize in-person time when possible, recognizing that it's these moments that truly strengthen relationships. Plus, with age comes a greater sense of self-awareness, so adults are more likely to set boundaries with their phones. With all that being said I do feel like getting into technology too young will affect your socializing skills and make things a little harder to understand in the journey of life. Turkle uses this reference of these 14 year old kids going on a 3 day wilderness hike/trip with no phones. The biggest impression to them was not having a phone. She says "Don't people know that sometimes you can just look out the window of a car and see the world go by and it's wonderful ". People are often able to notice

**Commented [3]:** This paragraph would be well suited if you directly followed the quote with this being Turkle's argument. I would also include how you agree with Turkle and then state why technology and conversation can be accomplished.

**Commented [4]:** For this topic sentence, I would recommend making this stronger by saying something like Turkle argues that the younger generations are obsessed with technology, but the age gap is very important when referring to technology.

**Commented [5]:** This is a very good argument as to why you do not agree with Turkle. However, this would be very important to state back in your thesis so that you can go further into your argument.

**Commented [6]:** Since you are talking about evidence from Turkle's writing about the camp that the teenagers went to, you should use a quote as solid evidence instead of the other quote currently present. From there, you can then explain the significance of taking away phones from the younger generations.

the world around them and reconnect with the present moment. For many young people, growing up with smartphones and constant access to social media can diminish their ability to appreciate the world as it is. Being constantly into technology can make it difficult to value simple, meaningful experiences like a face-to-face conversation or the quiet beauty of passing by landscapes/nature. People tend to not appreciate the beautiful things around them when they are lost in their phones.

**Commented [7]:** This is a good sentence, but because this paragraph is mainly about age and technology use, then you should end with how technology is important for all ages and it just depends on how it is used.

Most people can relate to what Turkle is trying to say about the overuse of technology. As much as people try to deny it, myself included, we're all guilty of using technology more than we should. It's easy to get caught up in the constant notifications, endless scrolling on social media, and all the other stuff tech offers. Some people realize the negative impact and try to take control by setting screen time limits, deleting apps, or even reading books to disconnect and refocus.

**Commented [8]:** This is a really good point to make towards the end of your argument. It talks about how people acknowledge technology being bad, but it is up to the person to set limits on themselves.

These are all beneficial and show self-discipline, but it's often harder than it seems. While the intention is there, breaking free from the grip of technology can feel like a battle, especially with how deeply integrated it is into our daily routines. Even when we try to disconnect, we often find ourselves reaching for our phones out of habit, or feeling the pressure to stay connected for fear of missing out. It's a challenge that requires constant self-awareness and effort, but the small steps people take to regain control can lead to a healthier relationship with technology.

Turkle quotes that "we are forever elsewhere" and I can definitely see the truth in that statement.

**Commented [9]:** For restating your thesis, I would recommend wrapping up what you said throughout the paper what your argument is.

In today's world, it's easy to get lost in our phones, checking social media or scrolling away while we're physically present in a social situation. We might be sitting in the same room as someone, but our minds are somewhere else. And the result is that we're not fully connecting with others or engaging in the moment like we should.

**Commented [10]:** Steven, this was a good start to your argument and I feel as though you need to elaborate more on your thesis. Once your thesis is more specific and includes what you spoke about in your body paragraphs, then I think that the point will come across much stronger. Whenever you quote something that Turkle said, make sure to include page numbers and I don't recommend starting sentences with "and". Make sure your topic sentences are clear and concise so that the reader knows what will be talked about in the paragraph, as well as transition sentences between ideas. In your last paragraph before the conclusion, be sure to include some evidence from "The Empathy Diaries" to support your argument against Turkle.