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English 110  
13 February 2025

### The Devastation of Technology

Technology is damaging our brains. This is a common take on how technology is affecting our brains, but this take is not very accurate. Technology is negatively affecting our brain's ability to do certain tasks and makes it more difficult for us to focus. Nicholas Carr is an acclaimed writer who has made several pieces relating to technology and how it affects us as people. Sherry Turkle is another writer and sociologist I will discuss in my essay. Sherry Turkle is an acclaimed writer and MIT professor of Social Studies of Science who has a PhD in Sociology from Harvard University. These two writers believe that technology has a very negative effect on how it interacts with our brains. I agree slightly with this statement. I feel as though technology can be used to help us greatly. Now, I also believe that technology can damage us negatively too. Technology can make us feel no empathy towards others while also damaging how we are able to focus on ourselves.

In Sherry Turkle's "The Empathy Diaries", an essay that discusses how technology is negatively affecting how kids are feeling empathy, she argues that kids are becoming less able to feel empathy towards their peers and others. In an experience a principal had with a 7 year old student who was sent there because she was excluding another from playing with them, the student talked about how she does not feel empathy or emotion toward other students.

[The seventh grader] was almost robotic in her response. She said, 'I don't have feelings about this.' She couldn't read the signals that the other student was hurt. These kids aren't cruel. But they are not emotionally developed. Twelve year olds play on the playground like eight year olds would play. They don't seem able to put themselves in the place of other children. They say to other students: 'You can't play with us.' They are not developing that way of relating to where they listen and learn how to look at each other and hear each other. (Turkle 345)

Turkle describes this feeling the child felt as forever elsewhere, meaning that the child is not thinking about what is happening right where she is, but pushing off whatever is happening now and thinking about where else she could be, like her phone or other technology. I feel that this is not a very good way to live your life. If people are constantly feeling "forever elsewhere" then that means nothing in society will ever get done because nobody is thinking about the now and only thinking about what they could be doing instead of what they are currently doing. I find this to be prevalent especially when I am in class. I have this feeling of being forever elsewhere, lost in a fantasy world in my brain that is somewhere that I'd rather be than in the moment. Carr discusses a similar point in that, he discusses that the brain is now changing, not in a good way but it is changing. He says that

**Commented [FS1]:** When introducing Carr and Turkle, make sure to include the titles of their works in this exposition

**Commented [FS2]:** The "I agree" statement, and the specifics used in your thesis might be better suited for your body paragraphs.

**Commented [FS3]:** This paragraphs starts kind of abruptly, and a smoother transition would help the flow

**Commented [FS4]:** "forever elsewhere" should be in quotes and cited

it is negatively impacting the way that we are able to read texts in depth. He realizes in his article that the brain is now trying to take in information as The Net is giving it out. "My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles. Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a Jet Ski" (Carr 2). Carr, in this quote, is comparing how he analyzes data that he reads to exploring the ocean. He says that he used to be able to fully immerse himself into data before the net just as a scuba diver fully emerged in the ocean, seeing all the wonders of the ocean. He now says that he barely even scratches the surface of the information that he is reading just as a jet ski only hits the surface of the water and this is due to how his brain is changing. His brain has now changed to analyze information as The Net is giving it out. This comes with a cutback because our brains are not bringing in all the information present anymore. I like this simile because it paints a picture of how the information is being only brushed over. I feel that I can apply this to my readings because I find it difficult to be able to analyze all the data that is coming at me with one article, and I cannot get it all in my brain.

Technology also damages the way we think in depth about things. Now, when we are reading articles or trying to focus on things, our ability to concentrate on that is being impeded on by the Net and how it operates. Carr says that the Net "seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation" (2). What he is saying is that as we interact in conversation with the Net and how it operates, our brain is trying to analyze and read things the same way it is being distributed to us. This overcompensation of the brain is then causing us to not be able to concentrate on all the information and it makes us not able to think about things in depth. I think that this is a very important point to make because our brains are not wired to be taking in all this information and spit it out just as fast. Our brains need time to think in silence and process information but, when we are being shown so much information at one time, we overcompensate, and we can't see everything we were looking for. Turkle agrees with this sentiment when she is talking about how conversation is disrupted by technology, saying that "Real people demand responses to what they are feeling. And not just any response" (346). Turkle, in this quote, is saying that communicating with a person requires you to give responses that are for how they are feeling and not just on their issues. When communicating with a piece of technology, you can give any response to it because it does not require a response based off of how it feels because it does not. This means that talking with technology makes us think superficial and does not require us to use our brain when talking. Just as Carr says with how our "concentration and contemplation" is being damaged, Turkle says that communication with technology damages our ability to feel emotion towards others and makes us less emotionally intelligent.

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**Commented [FS5]:** At this point in the paragraph, bring Turkle, Carr, and your personal experiences all back together to streamline your thoughts and wrap up the paragraph more nicely

**Commented [FS6]:** Language like this is unspecific and makes it harder for the reader to fully grasp the ideas you are trying to convey

**Commented [FS7]:** Add a sentence before this to introduce the quote from Carr that your about to use in order to tie it to the topic sentence more.

**Commented [FS8]:** This quote seems a little vague, maybe a longer quote would help support your argument

**Commented [FS9]:** Local concerns:  
I noticed a lot of long, run-on sentences in your first body paragraph  
Your introduction starts very zeroed-in on the ideas that you are going to discuss; start more broad and work your way in  
The beginnings of your paragraphs are very abrupt and a little choppy  
Your into feels very technical and doesn't draw the reader in as much as it could

**Global Concerns**  
I like how you brought your own experiences into the conversation in the first BP, I would try to replicate that in the second one  
In your thesis you mention how technology can help us, but that idea is not touched on in your body paragraphs. It could be a good way to bring more complexity to your input and analysis of the quotes  
The quotes you've chosen in your second paragraph don't leave a lot to be analyzed, and I think there is more room to dive deeper with more compelling quotes  
Overall, your body paragraphs stray from the Barclays formula, and I think referencing that structure more will help your ideas be more organized,  
Your perspective is very specific and personal to your life, but I would add a few more sentences to tie in a more general audience to the ideas your trying to convey