**14406, Dana Johnson-persuasive**

**Technology and its Effect on our Lives Today**

Technology is everywhere you look today. There was a time when everything was done by hand but that is no longer true. Today nothing is done by hand. Whether it is the simple tasks around your home or the most complex business transaction, everything is done by technology today. Just take walk if you will through a typical day of a modern person.

We are awakened in the morning by any variety of alarms. Some are clocks, some are alarms on our cell phones, some are TV’s and radios set to turn on at a specified time. No one wakes up with the sun anymore like our ancestors. Then we go out to the kitchen and fix our breakfast in electronic appliances that could include microwaves and specialty coffee makers. While we are getting ready for work we probably check out the news. But, unlike previous generations that read the newspaper or even watched the television, today we read the news on our IPADs or even our telephones. When we go to work we drive our cars which are technological marvels in themselves. Cars today include GPS so we don’t get lost, OnStar so we can safely talk on our cell phones through the car’s electronic system, systems to tell us the outside temperature, how many miles we have until we run out of gas, and seats that adjust up/down/front/back so we can be sure to sit ergonomically. Many of our newest cars today even offer Wi-Fi. We don’t all have all these comforts but they are becoming more and more common. Then, we arrive at our jobs and everything we do requires technology. We have electronic telephones, computers, and a variety of electronic devices that almost do our jobs for us. At the very least they make it impossible to do our jobs without the technology. It used to be that if the electricity went out we could still function by doing things by hand. But, now, if the power goes out we can’t use our computers so we can’t work. In many places of business there are no paper file folders to fall back on, no manual cranks possible to keep the machinery working. No, if the power goes out everything stops.

Looking at all these examples we could easily find ourselves addicted to technology. Many things we used to do by hand, we now do by means of technology. Like anything in life there are positives and negatives to technology. Positives aspects are the means to do our work more efficiently and sometimes more accurately, the means to be more independent even as you work more than ever before, and the means to earn more money from the work you do with less physical labor. Technology does our math for us so that there are fewer mistakes and the work is done faster. Independence is obtained when workers can work from home or any other remote location rather than being tied to a desk in an office building. Lastly, those who are able to use technology to do their work generally earn a higher wage or salary than those who still do manual labor.

But, technology also opens us up to some dangers as well. Every day we hear stories of identity theft that happens as a result of people posting information online or even a talented thief who knows how to access their technological gadgets wirelessly. Other dangers are cyber bullying where children and even adults are bullied by people on websites instead of just in physical places they can avoid. Some people even get to the point where they do everything via technology rather than taking a chance on human interaction. Basically they become hermits.

Technology isn’t all bad though. It’s not the use of technology that is the problem, but allowing technology to control our lives instead of us controlling technology. I would suggest that we take control of our lives, using technology where it is useful but doing things by our own means when we can. Technology should be a tool in our hands, not the master of our behavior.

I challenge each of you today to look at your own lives and see whether you think technology controls you or you control technology and make the necessary changes so that you can be in control of your lives and use technology as you see fit to serve your purposes rather than being bound by technology.

Thank you