

## Unit 1 : Technology and Society Essay Prompt

Technology and new media are playing an increasingly large role in our lives. From cell phones to MySpace to iPods, technological innovations are changing the way we interact, work, study, relax and negotiate public spaces.



For your Unit 1 paper you will choose one piece of technology (or new media phenomenon) and analyze the impact that piece of technology has made on society. Papers should be **5-7 pages in length**, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. The paper should include a references page and a title page. The title page does not count towards the 5-7 pages but the reference page does.

Your paper should be written in **APA format** and will need to include:

- 1) An **original thesis statement** making an argument about your piece of technology. Your thesis could address any **one** of the following questions:
  - How has/will this technology affect human relationships? Is it helping bring people together or is it pushing people apart? Is there a way in which this technology lessens the “quality” of interactions we have with one another?
  - U.S. residents have some of the highest levels of stress of any nation in the world. Is this piece of technology increasing the amount of stress in our everyday lives or lessening it? In what ways might this technology affect stress levels?
  - Has this technology affected the experience of U.S. undergraduates? If so, in what ways?
  - How has/will this technology affect global politics or economics?
  - Does this technology widen or diminish race/class/gender inequalities? If so, in what ways? Who has or does not have access to this new technology?
  - How has this technology reduced or increased the amount of privacy we have over our personal information? What role should the government play in regulating information availability?
  
- 2) Evidence drawn from at least **5 sources** to support your thesis. You must include in your sources at least: 1 book, 1 scientific journal article and 1 “pop” science article. Two of these sources may be sources from the course Moodle site or your textbook; the other 3 must come from your own library research.

Possible technologies for study include:

- iPods/MP3 Players
- Cell Phones
- Text messaging
- Websites like Wikipedia, MySpace or YouTube
- Blogging
- Innovative Medical Technologies (like hearing aids, plastic surgery or lasik eye surgery)
- Video Games (or a specific video game)
- Instant Messaging

**Grading Rubric: Unit 1 Paper**

**5** = Advanced; writer demonstrates strong skill and control in this trait; many strengths present

**4** = Proficient; writer demonstrates effective skill and control; strengths outweigh weaknesses

**3** = Developing; writer demonstrates equal number of strengths and weaknesses in this trait

**2/1** = Needs Improvement; writer is not yet showing skill or control in this trait

<b>Essay Criteria</b>	<b>Score (0-5)</b>
<b>Thesis:</b> Demonstrates clear purpose, complexity and originality; raises issue to be discussed and offers a direct statement of writer's position; previews the structure of the essay.	
<b>Supporting Evidence:</b> Provides logical support for the claims made by the thesis; uses compelling sources and forms of argumentative appeal; effectively counters opposing arguments.	
<b>Types of Resources:</b> Includes at least 5 resources including at least 1 book, one scientific journal article and one "pop" science article. At least 3 of the resources are from the student's own library /internet research.	
<b>Organization:</b> Sequence of material supports the thesis and purpose; shows connections between ideas; demonstrates writer's control over organizational patterns of information.	
<b>Style/Tone:</b> Uses language with control, elegance and imagination to suit the essay's purpose; maintains consistent, distinctive voice throughout the essay.	
<b>Mechanics:</b> Uses grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax that are appropriate for standard written English; demonstrates careful attention to proofreading	
<b>Conclusion:</b> Briefly reviews but does more than simply restate the thesis; adds new insight to the thesis in light of the evidence used.	
<b>References:</b> Includes a reference page citing all sources in proper APA format.	

**Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ /40 =

