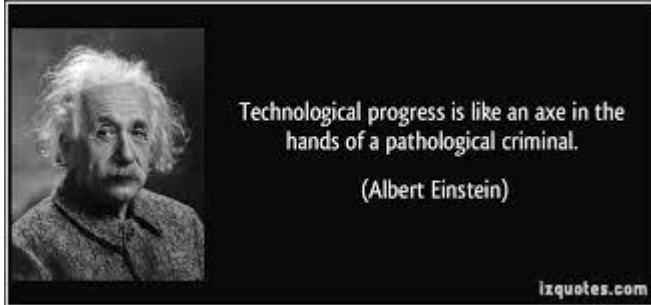


Thinking Critically about Technology

1. The Irony of Technology



This article, written in 1955, expresses concerns about humans being unable to survive technology:
<http://fortune.com/2013/01/13/can-we-survive-technology/>

In my opinion, technology always creates more problems than it solves. Here are a few examples:

How cars were supposed to solve a problem, not create new ones:

<http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Great-Horse-Manure-Crisis-of-1894/>

Very few people were ever killed in horse collisions, but consider the number of people killed in traffic accidents:

http://www.progressive-economy.org/trade_facts/traffic-accidents-kill-1-24-million-people-a-year-worldwide-wars-and-murders-0-44-million/

Nuclear power was supposed to be cleaner and better for the environment, but consider Fukushima

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=46&v=jH32c4rVHul

Is automation a problem or a benefit? Read this article and respond.

<http://www.alternet.org/labor/8-ways-robots-are-taking-over-our-jobs-and-our-world>

Are expensive drugs produced with advanced technologies creating more problems?

<https://www.livestrong.com/article/153376-the-average-cost-for-cancer-chemotherapy-treatment/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/id/100840148>

<http://truedemocracyparty.net/2013/06/how-to-cure-cancer-for-5-15-per-day-bill-henderson-time-to-terminate-cancer/>

TASK: Use these and other examples to argue that the more advanced our technology becomes, the more problems it creates.

2. Technology in Literature

TASK: Read one or more of the following: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury or *Brave New World* by Huxley, and write an essay analyzing how these books are critical of technology. If you've already read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Chrysalids* by John Wyndham, or *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, you can also use one or more to make the same argument, though in these books technology is a relatively minor theme.

3. History of Technological Development

<http://www.lowtechmagazine.com/2015/02/heating-people-not-spaces.html>

4. Alternatives to High-Tech

Building schools from clay:

https://www.ted.com/talks/diebedo_francis_kere_how_to_build_with_clay_and_community

Building water filters and fridges from clay:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl_YCKKlc4M

Building with cob:

<http://www.thiscobhouse.com/characteristics-of-cob-homes/>

Zero-tech farming with Masanobu Fukuoka:

<http://www.permaculture.com/node/140>

Biologicals – using natural bacteria to boost agricultural productivity:

<https://www.technologyreview.com/s/601930/new-way-to-boost-crop-production-doesnt-rely-on-gmos-or-pesticides/>

Teen creates free electricity:

<http://www.wakingtimes.com/2016/05/18/13-year-old-invents-tesla-inspired-free-energy-device-for-under-15/>

Teen creates water purifier and electricity generator combo:

<http://www.trueactivist.com/teenager-invents-water-purifier-that-creates-electricity-with-no-external-power-source/>

Grandma lives in treehouse

http://www.naturalnews.com/055491_treehouse_Florida_nanny_state.html