

University of Wisconsin at Manitowoc
ENG101
Spring 2012

Technology Self-Observation

For each of the following questions, answer in **three to four complete sentences**. Your answer should include details, descriptions, and specific explanations. See the example provided below question one and model your answer after it, particularly in terms of the formal tone and level of detail.

Question 1: As Turkle describes, in the chapter “The New State of the Self: Tethered and Marked Absent,” have you ever attempted to get away to experience a new place or escape and have instead remained “tethered” to some form of technology?

Example Answer: Early in my relationship with my boyfriend, I attended a family wedding in another state because he had to work. I found myself texting him in moments I should have been enjoying and immersed in. Also, I was contented with going early back to my hotel to call him or see what he had posted on facebook. I love being connected to him, but I I could not fully experience the family time as a result.

Question 2: Do you feel that technology offers a certain feeling of control in your life? If yes, in what way? If no, what feelings do you associate with technology and why?

Question 3: What role does technology play in your education? Give examples, positive and/or negative.

Question 4: What uses of technology have your parents modeled for you. Give examples, positive and/or negative.

Question 5: How does technology impact your independence? Give examples.

Question 6: Completely outside of technology, do you have a sense of who you are as a person? Attempt to describe yourself without saying where you are from, your politics or religion, what kind of music you like, or what your interests are. (In other words, not using any of the facebook categories from your profile.)

Question 7: In “The Collaborative Self,” Turkle argues, “I have said that in the psychoanalytic tradition, one speaks about narcissism not to indicate people who love themselves, but a personality so fragile that it needs constant support. It cannot tolerate the complex demands of other people but tries to relate to them by distorting who they are and splitting off what it needs, what it can use. So, the narcissistic self gets on with others by dealing only with their made-to-measure representations.” Reread this chapter for her examples of this. Then, reflect on the above statement in relation to yourself. Use examples.