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Layperson Summary: The Influence of Technology on Culture and Individual Identity

When reflecting back on my experiences with education one factor that was present through it all was technology. As I grew up, computers and tablets began to be more frequently used in the classroom and in daily life and my college experience would not have been as successful as it has been without access to these devices. This project will allow me to reflect back upon how technology has influenced my life and changed my perception of the world around me, as well as looking forward as to where it is heading in the future.

As an English Education major I have had the opportunity to work closely with high school students throughout my college years, and I have been able to observe just how much computers and hand-held devices are necessary in the classroom not just because it is so highly accessible in everyday life, but because the state education standards require that technology be used daily in schools. For this project, I intend to blend my personal reflections and experiences with my observations as I work and teach high school students to explore how electronics have influenced the way people interact with one another and relate to society as a whole. To back up my findings I have collected artifacts from throughout my college experience that each have significant meaning to me personally but also look at my topic academically and critically. While I will utilize these artifacts, I will also use research that has been done on my topic to back up my beliefs; in addition I will use my own observations and research of the influences of technology on myself, my students, and other adults through interviews and other informal observations.
Looking more in depth and reflecting on how technology has been an influence in my life will provide a lens for my future as an educator and as an active participant in our technology driven society. I am utilizing my artifacts and observations to show how electronics have positively influenced my education and my life overall, but also to show that it continues to grow and become more present than it has ever been through the ease of access and the necessity for it on a daily basis. Through this project my goal is to explore the society we live in, a society where we can no longer live without cell phones and computers, and while that may not necessarily be a negative thing, it is something to draw awareness to both inside the school building and outside of it as well.