

Example essay

As you sit here reading this article, look around you. How much of what you are surrounded by is, or is affected by, technology? How does it impact your life on a day to day basis? The definition of technology is the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry. Many people think technology is only cell phones or social media, but other people see technology as any sort of advancement, such as medicine or factories. Each side has a pro or con for every type of technology and gives considerable evidence for each, such as cyberbullying in phones and being connected to those you love even if they live far away. So, how do we know which side to agree with? Although the other side may have proof, it does not outweigh the pros of technology. Technology has revolutionized human life in many ways that have advanced human ability to not only survive, but to thrive.

Technology is responsible for many medical advances and increased life span globally. Medical advances since the 1900s have revolutionized our lives. In the year 1918, 675,000 Americans died of the flu, whereas in 2017, 5,251 Americans died of the flu. In 1952, there were 57,879 cases of Polio in America compared to zero in 1979-now. In Britain, from 1000-1935 AD, four to five people died per 1,000 people in childbirth, but now 0.1 of 1,000 people die in childbirth in Britain. The article, "Advances in Vaccine Technology and their Impact on Managed Care" says, "The discovery of vaccines has led to the near eradication of several important diseases and has had a tremendous impact on health for a relatively low cost." Since the 1900s and earlier, there have been numerous revolutionary medical advances such as vaccines and new, more sanitary surgeries. All of these advances are technological advances that have helped us live longer. Related to living longer, the lifespan of the average human being living in Europe was approximately 34.3 years in the year 1770. In the year 1900 it rose to 42.7 years and continued to rise rapidly in the years to come. In the year 1950, it had risen to 64.7 years and, in 2000, it rose to 77.6. "The Determinants of Morality" by David Cutler, Angus Deaton, and Adrian Lleras-Muney says, "Most recently the major life saving scientific innovation in medical procedures and new pharmaceuticals have had a major effect, particularly on reduced mortality from cardiovascular disease." In the past century there have been many new innovations that save lives- such as vaccines and antibiotics. Our lives are longer and formerly deadly sicknesses and other conditions no longer affect us as severely. All of this improvement is thanks to none other than technology.

Have you ever wanted to make a difference or create something? Well because of the invention of technology everyone can. Ever since the creation of technology, people have had more of a say in their life in matters such as

politics. The article "The Political Power of Social Media" states, "As the communication landscape gets denser, more complex and more participatory, the networked population is gaining greater access to information, more opportunities to engage in public speech and an enhanced ability to undertake collective action." Because of the creation of technology, people that would never have been heard are heard, and people that would never have been allowed an opinion can now share their ideas. If it weren't for technology so many people would be silenced, and so many brilliant minds would never be heard. In the TED talk "How I Harnessed the Wind" William Kamkwamba says, "I had never used a computer. I had never seen an internet... I decided I would build one windmill for myself... The reporter came too [to the windmill], which led to bloggers and which led to a call from something called TED." William Kamkwamba was from a poor African country but still managed to make something, using technology, that helped his people survive. Technology gives many people the ability to do something amazing even if they aren't born to a family of billionaires. Because of technology, even the most ordinary people can make a difference and be heard.

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Although

many people say that technology is harmful to humans because of cyberbullying, cyberbullying is not technology's fault. People have the choice to do the right thing or the wrong thing. The people that participate in cyberbullying are choosing to do the wrong thing. No person or thing is forcing people to cyberbully others. Others might say that it gives people the tool to hurt others, but the people who cyberbully others would just find other ways to hurt others. Just because you block one way to accomplish something, doesn't mean you've blocked them all. Technology is not at fault for human error, and to blame it is like blaming a house for being set on fire. It is not the fires' fault for the house burning down, it is the person who set the house on fire who is truly at fault. Although putting the blame on something else is more convenient, in the age of knowledge we live in today, it would be ignorant to do so. Although awareness has been raised for cyberbullying, and the people who cyberbully others know the consequences of their actions, people continue to make the same poor decisions. We cannot blame technology for the faults humanity has had since before the creation of technology.

To summarize, technology has changed the quality of life for human beings and given us the ability to thrive. It has given us longer lives and helped to prevent what were once major causes of death from taking hardly any lives at all. In addition, technology gives us the ability for everyone to have a voice and a say in everyday life and to make a difference in their world. For those of you reading this whose minds remain unchanged, think about this: You cannot say