

**Leading Question – “Make Us Think”**

Is technology helping or hurting society? When I first heard this question, it was difficult to decide because there are ways that it helps people and ways that it hurts people. In my life, technology has been way more helpful because it allows me to have fun, communicate with friends, and learn new things.

What would life be like if we didn't have computers or cell phones? Maybe we would all be a little smarter. It seems that the more technology we have at our fingertips, the less we are able to problem solve and work hard. Technology has had a negative impact on society because people have become too dependent on it.

**Engaging Quote or Conversation – “Let Us Hear”**

I've heard people say, “Guns don't kill people, people kill people.” I think this logic applies to technology as well. While people complain about the negative impacts of technology, it isn't the technology itself, but how people handle it that causes problems. It isn't social media that leads to fights and suicide; it is the bullies on the social media using it to harass other kids. While technology can be dangerous, technology has had a positive impact on society because it has helped us learn, communicate, and have fun.

“I couldn't do my project because my computer wasn't working.” As a teacher, I've heard this more times than I can count. I know I require it to be typed, but wouldn't it be better to come in with something written down on notebook paper? I feel like we expect so much out of technology that we don't know how to solve a problem on our own when it breaks down. Technology has had a negative impact on society because people have become too dependent on it.

**Anecdote – “Take Us There”**

I can remember running through the door trying to be the first one to the computer in our house. We didn't have Internet, but we did have Organ Trail and the Sims. My brother and I would push and shove to be the first one to get to play in the afternoon. Technology has had a positive impact on society because it has helped us learn, communicate, and have fun.

I was sitting in front of my computer, and no matter what button I pushed, nothing happened. I started to get really scared and then really angry because I had just spent hours typing a paper. When my computer crashed, I not only lost my paper but lots of important information and all my pictures. I realized that I had trusted technology a little too much. Technology has had a negative impact on society because people have become too dependent on it.

**Description/Direct Statement – “Show Us or Shock Us”**

Imagine a world without computers, cell phones, iTunes. Imagine never getting to play your favorite game or having to wait to talk to your friend face to face. Imagine all the facts and information that wouldn't be in your brain if technology was gone from your life. Technology has had a positive impact on society because it has helped us learn, communicate, and have fun.

87% of students admit to using technology to plagiarize their academic work. Although technology can be beneficial, I think technology is keeping students from learning and working hard in school. Technology has had a negative impact on society because people have become too dependent on it.

**Story in the News (History) (Literature) (Film) (Song Lyrics)**

I heard on the news about a young boy who committed suicide after being bullied on Facebook. Some people hear this story and believe that technology is bad and makes bullying worse. However, I know many students used Facebook to encourage a friend who lost his brother this year. They could communicate with him through text and Facebook even while he wasn't at school. So I think technology has had a positive impact on society because it helps us communicate and have fun.

Brad Paisley sings a silly song about being different online, “'cause even on a slow day I can have a three way, chat with two women at one time. I'm so much cooler online.” While he is making fun of people who create false identities online, it is scary how people can spend their whole life pretending to be somebody they're not and only talking to people on the Internet. Some people are afraid to go out and actually meet people. Other people hurt others by pretending to be different online. Technology has had a negative impact on society because people have become too dependent on it.