



Write to Educate

Scholarship Contest Winner

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Essay Topic: Examine the role of technology in your own life: Does technology have a positive or negative effect on personal safety? How would you handle texting and driving, whether yourself or others?

Christian Lous Lange once brought up the idea that “technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master”. Due to this statement, one can infer that Lange watched technology as it served humans’ desires and destroyed their chances of reaching for them. All throughout history, the wondrous subject known as technology has improved the quality of human lives. At the same time, it has threatened them as its possible effects have heightened by dangerous degrees.

Human lives have been improved by technology as people have been given more opportunities to connect with friends and loved ones because of it. Technology has the potential to make the completion of tasks more swift and sustained, as well. Knowledge related to these facts can bring a person back to when Lange referred to technology as a useful servant. Whether it be listening to a loved one’s recording while they’re off at war or keeping in touch with other people and their activities on social media to obtain a closer connection, many people use this subject to their greatest advantage every day. Drivers can reach their destinations quicker than pedestrians are able to arrive at the same places too. An example such as this brings about a clear representation of how technology has the potential to make the completion of tasks more swift and sustained. This wondrous subject has proven to help improve human lives all throughout years in the past. One can only hope it continues to do so in the future.

There is a heightening view that technology is being used for the better, but if one looks on the other side of the spectrum, they can see that not all of its effects bring about rays of sunshine. When witnessing this view in action, a person can be brought toward Lange’s statement that technology is a dangerous master. They can be stalked on social media and brought toward a person who wants to take something from them that they don’t want to give away. The fact that one valuable thing they own is being taken away from them has the potential to seriously deteriorate their feeling of self worth and can lead to terrible circumstances. Technology can also be dangerous when it comes to using a cell phone while driving. A driver can be on the road one second and reach for their cell phone in order to answer a text message or phone call. A moment later, they may be off the road and colliding into a vehicle on the opposite side of the street. Pedestrians can be run over when drivers allow their cell phones to distract them, as well.

One thing I feel encouraged to remind drivers about is the awareness they should have toward cell phone use while they’re behind the wheel. Cell phones are complex pieces of technology which contain distracting qualities such as vibrations and glowing screens. In my opinion, it’s best to place devices such as these in locations where drivers will not be tempted to reach for them. The console of a vehicle can be an effective place for a driver to store their cell phone while they’re on the road.

When combining the advanced quality of human life it brings about and the dangers it can influence, one can spot the positive and negative effects of technology. Examples of these are visible when it comes to the connections people share with those they care about and the completion of tasks being submitted swiftly and sustainably, as well as the stealing of valuable objects by stalkers and the distractions drivers can come across while they’re behind the wheel. Given this information and the fact that Christian Lous Lange referred to technology as a useful servant and dangerous master, one can conclude he and I stand on the same page.

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