

# How Will Advancements in Technology Affect the Daily Lives of People?

You will be completing a research project regarding the above question. To pick up from what you learned in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, you will gain a better understanding of how to choose a research topic, develop a thesis statement, gather sources, write a research paper and communicate what you learned. We will be using MLA format for the project and you will be required to fulfill each step of the process to be successful.

Your paper will cover the following three areas:

1. History of the technology and explanation of its development
2. Advantages and disadvantages/limitations of the current technology
3. Prediction of the effects that the technology will have on people in the future

Each phase of the research must be handed in on the due date because **each phase builds upon the previous one**. The first two parts will count as check grades, while the rest will count as test grades. The paper itself will count as three test grades.

## 1. Selecting A Topic (check grade)

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Decide on a form of technology that you are interested in and know a little bit about.
- b. Use your prior knowledge and basic research skills to brainstorm how this technology has affected the daily lives of people.
- c. **TO BE HANDED IN:** One paragraph describing the technology you have chosen and what you know about the technology at this point. In addition, please explain your reasoning for choosing this specific technology as well as some of the advantages and disadvantages of it.

## 2. Research Project Status Update (check grade)

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

- a. After searching the library and finding 3 different types of sources (listed in #3 below) that support the three parts of this research project (listed above), complete a concept map/organizer/chart reporting what you have found and what you still need. The format for this will be discussed in class.
- b. **TO BE HANDED IN:** Complete a concept map/chart outlining where you are at in the process of gathering information for your project.

## 3. Continue Finding Research and Evidence (test grade)

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

- a. **TO BE HANDED IN:** A typed works cited page and at least six paper copy sources (stapled individually) chosen from the following categories. You should use the three you already found. **You may not have more than two articles from the same category unless you have more than six sources.**

1. Internet/web sources
2. Books

3. Reference texts
  4. Online encyclopedias
  5. SIRS
  6. Newspapers, magazines and periodical databases
- b. All sources must be typed in MLA format on a separate works cited page.
  - c. Each part must have two different sources connected to it. On the works cited, list each part of the project followed by the sources connected to it.
  - d. Each source must be labeled A, B, C, D, E, F

**4. Research Paper Outline** (test grade)

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

- a. **TO BE HANDED IN:** A complete outline of your research project
- b. Outline the information and sources that you will use in the three parts of the research paper using outline form and the letters of your sources.
- c. Within the outline, include your thesis for the advantages and disadvantages part of the project
- d. Within the outline, include your prediction for the future impacts part of the project
- e. Each part of the project must have at least two different sources supporting it

**5. Research Paper** (three test grades)

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

- a. **TO BE HANDED IN:** The typed research paper (consisting of an introduction, the three parts and a conclusion) with all sources cited and a fresh copy of your works cited page in alphabetical order
- b. Use proper tone, format, and MLA citations.
- c. Your thesis must be clearly defined in your advantages and disadvantages section.
- d. The paper must show proper source citations.
- e. This must be typed.

**6. Communicating Your Research** (test grade)

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

- a. **TO BE COMPLETED:** A 3-5 minute presentation, communicating your research
- b. Using index cards, prepare your presentation to communicate what you learned through your research. You may not read from your paper. Cards should only include bullet points.
- c. You should use at least one visual or audio aid. This may include pictures, video, demonstration of the technology, etc. Make sure that this enhances your presentation.
- d. Keep your presentation within the time constraints as much as possible. Focus on the essential details of the history, advantages/disadvantages, and future.

### 1. History of the technology and explanation of its development

For this part, consider how the technology was invented, what research went into its invention, and what steps led it to reach its current state. For example, if you are looking at recorded music, you might want to cover the first recording by Alexander Graham Bell, how wax cylinders gave way to vinyl records, then tapes (reel-to-reel, cassette, 8-track, and digital audio tapes), then to CDs, and finally to computerized data. Find out when records were first produced, and how widespread their usage was. Look at how cassette tapes allowed for the Sony Walkman, which led to MP3 players and then integration into cell phones. Examine how CDs replaced records, and how the ability to “rip” CDs made the final step to current computerized data inevitable.

### 2. Advantages and disadvantages/limitations of the current technology

For this part, you need to examine current uses of the technology, and come up with a thesis statement about whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages or not. Your focus should be on proving this thesis rather than only giving information.

So you can discuss how one advantage of MP3s is that they allow music to be portable, able to be carried on a dedicated player, a cell phone, a flash drive, etc. Discuss how recording artists are able to produce their music more easily than in the past because they don't need to be part of a major record label since their music can be distributed on the internet; they don't need to pay a studio because the equipment to record and mix the music can be done with a home computer; they can easily provide samples of music rather than having to put out a single, etc. You can back this up by researching what independent artists have done to be successful on their own.

You also need to examine the disadvantages, such as MP3s being portable also allows them to be copied and pirated, meaning that musicians need to rely on live performances if their music isn't being sold. You might use research to back this up by quoting some musicians and their perspective on how piracy has affected them. Another disadvantage of the MP3 format, which has gained the most popularity, is inferior to “lossless” formats like FLAC.

Be sure to tie all of this together – if you're going to say the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, you can do research to counter the evidence you have for the disadvantages (by showing that record company profits have actually increased, or how the iTunes store is profitable) and argue about why the advantages are more significant.

### 3. Prediction of the effects that the technology will have on people in the future

When you look at the future, you can certainly come up with your own ideas about what will happen, but be sure to incorporate information from your research – what experts in the field think, what sort of research is being done, etc. So, for digital music, you can talk about how the expansion of wireless technology allows for access to your music anywhere, anytime. The reduction in size of memory allows entire libraries of music to fit on a chip the size of your fingernail. Online services like Pandora can use your musical preferences to play new music so it makes it easier to discover new artists. Think not only of the near future, but 10, 20, or 50 years from now.

# Rubric for Oral Presentation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your presentation should be done using notecards or from memory – you may not simply read your paper. You are trying to “teach” the class about your research topic, so you want your presentation to be both informative and interesting. You must use at least one visual aid – picture, timeline, graph, physical artifact, video clip (note that videos do not contribute to your total time), and/or audio clip (while not “visual,” it counts). Make sure any visual aids you have are used effectively to enhance your presentation – refer to them, and make them clarify a point you are trying to make.

\_\_\_\_\_ (20) **Verbal**  
Loud (5)  
Clear (5)  
Variations in tone of voice (5)  
Not rushed/too slow (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ (20) **Physical**  
Good posture (5)  
Eye contact (5)  
Not pacing/fidgeting (5)  
Confident (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ (40) **Content**  
Informative (20)  
3-5 minutes long (5)  
Organized (5)  
Focused on topic (5)  
Interesting (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ (20) **Visual Aid**  
Well chosen (5)  
Able to enhance presentation (5)  
Easy to see/hear (5)  
Used effectively (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ (100) **Total**

## MLA Citation Examples

### Whole Books

- A. General – *notice not only the different parts, but also the punctuation*  
[last name, first name]. [Title underlined]. [Location: Publisher], [date].
- B. One author  
Ruiz, Ramon. Triumphs and Tragedy. New York: Norton, 1992.
- C. Two authors – *notice that the second author's name is in normal order*  
Gilbert, Sandra, and Susan Gubar. The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1979.
- D. Three or more authors – *"et. al." means "and others." Use "et. al." instead of listing all of the authors.*  
Gatto, Joseph, et. al. Exploring Visual Design. Worcester: Davis, 1987.

### Magazines, Encyclopedias, Reports, Newspapers, and Newsletters

- A. General  
[last name, first name]. ["Article title in quotes."] [Magazine title]. [Publication date: page.]
- B. An article in a magazine or newspaper  
Hartigan, Patti. "Poet Walcott of BU Wins Nobel Prize." Boston Globe. 9 Oct. 1992: 1.
- C. An article with no author  
"What a world!" Early American Life. April 1992: 2-4.
- D. An article in an encyclopedia – *Include article title, name of encyclopedia, and year of the edition.*  
"Shakespeare, William." Encyclopedia Britannica: Micropaedia. 1992 ed.
- E. Report or pamphlet  
*Treat as you would a book. Many pamphlets have very little information about their source; include as much as you can regarding the author, title, publisher, and date. If you cannot find any of this, indicate that it was a pamphlet and where it was distributed.*

### Media and Other Sources

- A. Interview you conducted  
Jackson, Jesse. Personal interview. 15 July 1992.
- B. Letter, fax, or e-mail you have received  
Rudman, Warren. Letter to the author. 2 May 1987.
- C. A film  
The Grapes of Wrath. Dir. John Ford. With John Carradine, Jane Darwell, and Henry Fonda. Writ. Nunnally Johnson. Twentieth Century Fox, 1940.

#### D. Computer resources

1. CD-ROM Encyclopedia  
"Shakespeare, William" Encarta. Microsoft Corporation, 2005.
2. Wikipedia – from the “toolbox” dropdown, choose “Cite this page”  
Wikipedia contributors. "Genetic engineering." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*.  
Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 4 Feb. 2011. Web. 10 Feb. 2011.
3. World-wide web  
*The author's name may not be available, but the rest should be. Include not only any date you can find on the page, but also the date on which you found the information. Break the URL at the slashes.*  
[Author or originator]. [Title of Website]. [Date of posting/revision]. [Name of sponsoring organization]. Web.[Date of Access (day, month, year)] [<URL>].  
USGC. Ecuador Volcanoes and Volcanics. 28 Feb. 2010. Web. 8 May 2010.  
<[http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/Ecuador/description\\_ecuador\\_volcanoes.html](http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/Ecuador/description_ecuador_volcanoes.html)>.
4. Article from an electronic database (such as SIRS or EBSCO) – note that there may be a “citation” option on the page.  
[Author]. [“Title.”] [Magazine]. [Publication date: pages]. [Database name]. [Database provider].  
Web. [date of access].  
  
Sewell, Abby. "Parents' New Worry: Mobile Web Access." *Los Angeles Times*. 18 Jan 2011: B.1. *SIRS Researcher*. Web. 10 Feb 2011.  
  
Kalb, Claudia, Anne Underwood, and Jonathan Mummolo. "Peering Into the Future." *Newsweek* 148.24 (2006): 52. *Middle Search Plus*. EBSCO. Web. 10 Feb. 2011.
5. Internet Graphic  
[Artist]. ["Filename." ] [Date of image]. Online image. [Title of Website]. Web. [Date of Access (day, month, year)] [<URL>].  
"beaches.jpg." National D-day Museum. Online image. 8 May 2002 <[http://www.dday.org/history/story\\_4.html](http://www.dday.org/history/story_4.html)>.

These should cover most of the bibliographic entries you may need to make. If you encounter others, just ask what the appropriate way is to list them.