

## *T*echnology and *C*ommunication *A*utobiography

---

In this assignment you will be answering a series of questions about the ways you use technology and communication tools. The goal of this assignment is to begin to think of ourselves as sources of information for interesting writing, and also to begin discussion of the way we already use technology to design communication. This also will give me and other students some idea of what sort of technology you are already used to using, and what sorts of writing you enjoy doing.



On the following pages there are a LOT of questions, and I have posted a Word doc version of this document to Blackboard as well if you would rather answer them via a computer. Once you have answered at least half of the questions to the best of your ability, I would like you to take the five most interesting answers that you found (the best stories, the ones that are most “telling” about you) to share with the class via your blog. Consider illustrating your word document (or whatever sort of document you create) with images and even links to the internet that make your story more concrete (not required).

### **Requirements:**

Answers to questions turned in – typed or no

Five(-ish) most interesting answers – typed, illustrated as you are capable, and posted to your blog

Share some of your stories with the class the day that the assignment is due

Due Friday, January 27, 2007

### **Grading:**

Questions answered: 20 points

Interesting answers typed, fleshed out: 50 points

Presented to the class: 30 points

### **Questions to Answer:**

List the places you have been educated:

What education did your parents have?

Would you consider your parents/current family (so either parents OR spouse/kids OR both) to be, or to have been, technologically literate?

Would you say that your parents/current family (so either parents OR spouse/kids OR both) read a lot? If so, what do they read?

When you were younger, did anyone encourage you to read?

When you were younger, did anyone encourage you to use computers?

What sort of technology have the various schools you attended have?

Would you say that most people today have access to technology?

What do you think keeps some people from learning computers?

Do you consider yourself to be a good writer?

What do you think a good writer is?

What would you do to help someone who doesn't know how to use a computer learn how to use them?

What would you do to help someone who doesn't know how to write well begin to write with more confidence?

Who has been the main source of "technology" or learning about technology in your life?

If anyone in your family considers themselves to be a bad writer, why do you think that is?

What do you think, other than school, turns people into "bad writers?" Do bad writers even exist?

Did anyone ever discourage you from writing? From using technology? If so, who and why?

How do you use technology when you write today?

How do you use technology to communicate today?

Do you use the internet? What do you use the internet for?

What did you read as a child? What do you read now?

What is your favorite book, online or off?

What are your favorite websites?

Do you read online? What do you know is available to read online?

How do you think people gain new skills in writing, reading, or using technology? Can you see any interrelation in those?

How did you learn to read?

How did you learn to write?

How did you learn to use a computer?

How did you learn to type (if you ever have)?

What operating systems (example: Windows XP) do you know how to use?

What activities do you know how to do on a computer?

What other software do you know how to use?

Do you know any other languages? How did you learn them?

Why do you think some people are afraid of technology?

Why do you think some people believe the internet is going to destroy today's "youth"?

Do you belong to any social networking sites (myspace, facebook)? If so, what do you do there?

Think of an average day. What writing activities do you do in an average day?

Think of an average day. What reading activities do you do in an average day?

Think again of an average day. What computer activities do you do in an average day?

Do you play games on computers or video game systems? Which? Why do you like/not like them?

Why do you think that some people believe one gender is “naturally” better at technology than another (this varies culturally, so I haven’t specified).

Where do you get news from? Has this changed over your life?

Are there any stories about reading, writing, or computers that stand out from your time in school so far?

Do you plan on letting your children use computers? Why or why not? What will you let them do, if you do?

Have you had any bad experiences with computers or the internet that would make you think twice about allowing a child online?

Do you think that computers ultimately benefit or hurt society?

Is there anything else you'd like to say on a similar topic that hasn't been answered here? Please share.