

## **“Communicating through Technology vs: Person to Person Communication - Who will win?”**

"The newest computer can merely compound, at speed, the oldest problem in the relations between human beings, and in the end the communicator will be confronted with the old problem, of what to say and how to say it." This quote by Edward R. Murrow implies that technology has replaced our brain when it comes to communication. It does not matter what form of technology we use to communicate, people just have to know how to express themselves to others. There are many benefits of person to person communication. Secondly, there are negatives and positives of communicating through technology. Lastly, it is clear that technology will shape how communication works in the future.

In today's society, person to person communication is a dying art. Face to face conversation is one of the most revealing ways to communicate. It allows you to see/hear the emotions of the other speaker. One example is if three friends are talking, one friend says something that makes one friend laugh, but the other runs away with tears in his/her eyes. The person who spoke immediately sees the effect of his /her words, thus teaching him/her that this comment could be offensive to some people, but funny to others. Another positive of person to person communication is the fact that it is harder for bullies to bully: the consequences are much greater. For example: a bully starts to pick on a kid, his friends see him being picked on, and then go tell the principal. The bullying stops, and never happens again. This is impossible when cyber bullying occurs as no one actually 'sees' anything. Finally, person to person speech allows people to see body language. Often, people will 'move' with the most important parts of a speech or conversation, allowing others to get the message more clearly. The way a person stands, waves his/her arms, taps his/her foot, for instance, all help in communication. Online, this cannot happen. A person could emphasize the wrong part of a conversation and get a totally wrong view of what was trying to be said. Everyone has the ability to communicate person to person; it is just being blocked by technology.

Technology has both negatives and positives when it comes to communication. Everyone I know uses live gaming (on a 360, Wii, or PS3), text messaging on a cell phone, and a computer to communicate. There are many negatives with online chatting. Firstly, it is harder to see emotions online. Sure, you can bold words, but is it as effective as actual yelling? Thus, it is easier for bullies to bully because most bullies are cowards, and prefer to cower behind technology. A second example is that most online chat services have histories, so, if a watchful mother wants to see her children's account histories, she can. This can not be done with a person to person conversation because there is no material record of what was said. A third example is that people can easily lie about themselves. For instance, a man has been dating a woman who he has never met online. There have been many occasions where they have LOL together. Her photo shows her as a young, sexy lady with beautiful blond hair. When they finally work up the courage to meet, she turns out to be an older, overweight person with short, stringy black hair. Technology presents one thing, real life presents another. However, there are a few positives of online chatting. Everything is quick, so you can send a message and the receiver will get it

immediately. Also, you can double check a message so that it says exactly what you want it to say and get a specific point across. I mentioned early that account histories have a bad impact; they also have a positive one. If a couple have a chat online, but break up the next day, their conversation history can be checked to see what exactly went wrong. Technology is being used instead of person to person communication because it is easier. The more we use technology to communicate, the more likely it is that we will forget about person to person communication.

Lastly, I shall answer the question that plagues our minds, "How do you think technology will shape the future of how we communicate with each other?" I believe that over time, person to person communication will become almost non-existent. Everyone will rely even more heavily than they do now on electronics. Sure, new online ways of talking will come up that allow people to see who they are talking too, but is it as good as actual person to person? The more we rely on technology, the weaker our social brain gets, thus causing humans to decline as social beings. If there is a power outage and everyone uses some type of technology, no one would be able to 'communicate'. The world would be in disarray. Sometimes we forget how to interact with each other, a simple "hi" when we meet. Once again, in person to person communication, you can see emotions. This helps you to see if you have been misunderstood. Technology can not do this. You can not see emotions online. If you are misunderstood, it could escalate to conflict, and that in its turn could harm many innocent people. The evolution of communication will continue to be guided by technology.

The quote by Edward R. Murrow explains to us that the more we communicate through technology, the more we forget how to communicate person to person. It is being locked away by technology. Person to person communication holds many positive attributes. Communicating through technology has its negatives and positives. Ultimately, technology will greatly impact how we as human beings communicate in the future. The technology lovers laugh at the people who communicate person to person. Who will be laughing in the future?