



Learning Through the Holy Spirit
**Father Michael Troy
Catholic School**

3630 - 23 Street Edmonton AB T6T 1W7
phone 780-471-1962 fax 780.471.2089

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To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to submit an entry written by Erin Orsini of Father Michael Troy School for the Student Essay Contest.

Sincerely,

Erin Winch

Teacher

Father Michael Troy School



Technology- Compelling?

An essay by Erin Orsini (15yrs) Father Michael Troy Junior High, Grade 9

Earth is evolving quickly, especially with the new net generation to top off the excessive fast paced lifestyle we have tailored. "The net generation" is any person born after the mid 1980's. Such a person would be described as someone who adapts easy to technology from frequent exposure from a young age. In this point in time, society is almost attacked with the pressures to have the latest form of technology. If one decides not to keep up with the current devices, they could be left behind in this planet that never sleeps.

Technology is like a weed, growing more rapidly and spreading its seed throughout underdeveloped nations and progressing through already advanced societies. Has this seed infiltrated our driving culture also? In this generation specifically there was a 14% augment in internet users within the past year. With social networking's usage increasing by the second, one would think that we are elevating the standard of normal exercises of technology. Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Myspace etc. has been a huge recent addition to our daily lives and we are constantly bombarded with new fads for technological uses. For example, how many times a day does an average citizen turn on the radio and hear the latest news of how you can get music on your new Blackberry? With people so familiarized and adapted to the vast selection of technology, society has integrated mobile phones, internet, fax machines, navigation systems, television, music systems and much more into driving.

Although Alberta's driving system has been adequate for plenty of years, there are many demises that have been result of numerous things society would see as harmless on the road. In this day and age, the technologies that we are so reliant on are all conveniences that the public has been accustomed to; however they disable people to transport themselves to the safest extent. What is controversial is whether or not technology should be banned while utilizing any motorized vehicle. Ideally, people would not use technology when they are behind the wheel, but with the unbreakable attachment we have been taught to have, it is almost impossible. While new laws have been put in place in many regions in North America restricting the use of non hands-free phone use while driving, there are various other alternatives that can have the same negative consequences of being on a mobile telephone. For instance, Bluetooth, internet, texting, television and fax are dismissed as being dangerous while driving, yet, in Canada in the region of 160,000 road crashes are present yearly. As well, approximately 28,000 people are killed. . There are many different factors that can contribute to a car accident, but technology? Yes, in fact 25-50% of all car crashes in North America are products of distracted driving, while 30% of those statistics are consequences of technology.

Some would dispute that this advanced technology is necessary to live in luxury in convenience, and of course to be in communication with others in a state of crisis. One may also argue that before society had become so dependent on technology, there were

few who used it on the road and death statistics caused by accidents was diminutive. So how can a dilemma such as this be resolved without cutting such a big part of our lives out entirely? Equilibrium. It would be drastically outrageous to completely ban such technology while on the road. Evidently, technology on the road does produce positive outcomes as well. Vehicle breakdowns are so common that the danger in them is almost non-existent. Of course, that danger would seize the situation if cell phones, palm pilots and any other means of communication were not present. Here is a perfect scenario: A family's car breaks down on a lifeless highway on a cold winter day. Without a form of communication to the outside world, what are their options? If no immediate help comes, well death. Also, tracking systems, communication systems and GPS systems aide emergency vehicles to keep communities safe. If emergency vehicles were prohibited from the use of technology while driving, criminals could get away and more people would die from the lack of communication between paramedics, police and fire fighters. Technology is required in emergency vehicles and is encouraged in citizen's vehicles in an urgent situation.

Another issue that must be brought forward is hands-free technological uses. It was said by society and the federal government who encouraged these laws that driving with "hands-free" was acceptable. Is it really acceptable though? The motive for wanting to drive with hands-free devices is to be able to multi task on the road with keeping hands on the wheel. Although keeping both hands on the wheel at all times is significant, the mind is fairly more important. The human brain was not built to multi task on such extreme levels. How can one be expected to drive safely on the road *and* talk to the boss or their buddies on the phone? It is unsafe to put yourself and others in that kind of risk and has the same affect as a non-hands free device; awareness is not 100% dedicated to driving, and that is what causes accidents. When one is behind the wheel, they must be at full attention to guarantee the fullest amount of safety.

The statistics and common knowledge prove the fact that driving with distraction is hazardous. Realistically the resolution would be to eliminate all boisterous and distracting gadgets from the driver's possession with the exceptions of quiet radio, GPS and any other form of technology that would not impinge the driver's ability to focus on the road. All the devices in the world wouldn't be able to replace the human brain and its ability to react and to think to prevent an accident. What truly is ironic is the stereotypical idea that a more industrially advanced world is a better world. And an example of that are all of the state-of-the-art radios and navigation systems that promise a better driving experience, when in reality those appliances are only perks. And without the knowledge of exceptional driving, those perks would not help those who require it.

In conclusion, the advancement of technology manifestly leads to new discoveries and a more modern globe for humanity. Nevertheless, there are times and places for everything. One would not wear a bikini to a wedding per se, its common sense. Where our common sense has been lacking recently is on the road. The fact that devices and gadgets are persistently thrown at society makes it difficult to even absorb the concept of eliminating it in this part of our lives. Perhaps seeing as though this initiative literally drives people to death and injury as a consequence of distraction, one would be motivated not to drive

with such potentially perilous items. Society frequently adapts and grows with our constantly progressing world, so let us view this matter as another step to improving mankind.