Personal Technology Essay

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There are many ways people engage different programs online. One of the most obvious group of programs you can engage with is the different social media programs. With platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, and many more, there are lots of options to choose from. For me specifically, I find that I engage most with Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat.

Out of the three of these, I engage with Facebook the most. When I first wake up on a weekend morning and don’t have to get out of bed right away, I spend about the first hour awake just scrolling through Facebook as I try to keep myself updated on what happened overnight while I was asleep. Facebook is also an engaging platform because its capabilities are endless. You can post text, pictures, videos, live streams, etc. One of the most common ways I engage with Facebook is by tagging my friends in memes. I feel as if this is almost a better form of communication than texting because with texting, you are just simply sending text back and forth. When you tag a friend in a meme, you’re better able to communicate your mood, and the message you are trying to convey. Facebook impacts my day to day life because sometimes I find myself looking through good memes as a way to get me through the day. Sometimes, meme tagging can also be beneficial to a friendship because it shows you that your friends are thinking about you. Altogether, this is why I find Facebook to be my most used form of social media.

My relationship with computers has changed quite a bit since my younger days. My earliest memory with computers involves putting an Arthur, Blues Clues or Sesame Street themed disc in to play some educational games. As I got older, I ditched the discs and found myself playing games on the Disney Channel website. Although I was already familiar with Microsoft Word, towards the middle-school age I learned more about how to do class presentations on the computer through programs like Microsoft PowerPoint, Moviemaker, Audacity, etc. Now I hardly ever play games on my computer as it is now used mostly for school work and organizing my day to day life.

I remember when I was in elementary and middle school, over the summer my parents only let me have two hours per day of “screen time”, so I usually spent about an hour in the morning watching TV, and an hour during the day playing on the computer. Now, since I am using my computer for homework, I have no choice but to spend countless hours on it every day.

Through these experiences, computers evolved. The computer I played my disc games on when I was little was a big, clunky, box shaped computer. My memories of playing Disney Channel games take place in front of a flatter screen desktop, and now I find myself looking at a convertible laptop I can carry with me wherever I go.

The main interest I have had over my entire life has been that of the theatre. I was in my first musical when I was in Kindergarten where I played a munchkin in The Wizard of Oz. Since then, my passion for the arts has continued to grow and has made me the person I am today. I use various forms of social media to keep me updated with the theatre community and to see how the rehearsal process is coming along for the current show being performed at my high school – where I grew the most as a performer and individual. Seeing the images and videos posted on the Appleton North High School Theatre page makes me feel more connected to the characters and helps me to develop a better understanding of the show.

On a broader level, I follow multiple Broadway theatre pages and love to learn about the creative teams behind the current works of theatre on Broadway. Without these pages, it would be very difficult for me to make assessments on my opinions about certain actors, and my knowledge about the theatre world would be much less informed. I am happy that I have these sources to expose me to various elements of the theatre, as it allows me to think critically about creative choices made by certain directors and their collaborative teams.

Similar to what I mentioned before with the meme tagging, my friends and I will often tag each other in videos and articles related to theatre to expose each other to new forms of the art. This strengthens our relationships as well because we are able to discuss our thoughts on topics raised in the work.

All in all, it is easy to see how communication technologies have changed and how my relationship to them has changed. What I once used as just a fun way to pass the time has now also become a tool I use for learning, organization, and socialization. As I grow older and technologies advance, I am eager to see how my relationship to them will continue to change.