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Response to Group 4’s Presentation

Two questions that Group 4 posed were: “Can these new future technologies impact us in negative ways? What are the positive impacts?” & “Do you believe we are too reliant on these technologies? How do we use them to the point of reliance?”

In order to answer the first question, it is pertinent to go into a variety of new technologies. Firstly, the entertainment aspect of new technologies has seen a largely positive boost. As an example, look no further than the Holo Lens that was shown in class. This technology allows for a more immersive experience when it comes to gaming, and Minecraft was a great way to showcase this. Related to the Holo Lens and holograms in general would be Japanese “Vocaloids”; pop stars that are holograms. This innovation had a huge effect of the island country and is popular till this day.

Of course, holograms can also benefit the medical field when it comes to practicing surgeons; haptic sensors may increase the overall immersive experience. Branching off from there, new medical technologies are most certainly something positive. From mechanized prosthetics to 3-D printed organs, medicine has leaned very much towards engineering as of late. Patients who only dreamed of receiving a life-saving organ, or a paralysis victim being able to move again have more hope than ever before with the new technologies being developed.

Day-to-day life has also been improved by new technologies, with meal delivery services being popular, Amazon.com shipping nearly anything and everything one could possibly want, and modern appliances that seem to have more and more improvements. “Smart” technology, as we discussed in class, affords us an ease of access when it comes to our everyday lives.

However, these new technologies are not without their downsides; reliance on a number of these technologies are reaching records. For example, it is not uncommon to see people walking around with their nose in their smartphones or Airpods in their ears; this creates a bubble that blocks the outside world. It is as if we are addicted to these machines, believing that one day they will simply be implanted in our head. It is a chilling thought, and as technology advances, that scenario only looms closer.