

## ACTIVITY I

### Reaction Paper Task Sheet: **Prepare to React and Act**

#### --Introduction--

The topic of this position paper is about the story entitled 'The Flight from Conversation' written by Sherry Turkle. The story revolves around how the technology, specifically the social media and gadgets, shaped us, people in the society. It pinpoints about the changes observed in the society in the present that is dissimilar with how it was before. The article argues that face-to-face discussion is declining negatively as a result of society's growing reliance on digital communication platforms. This has been linked to a weakened feeling of empathy, deep interpersonal relationships, and a fractured sense of self.

#### --Body--

This article truly speaks a lot about our contemporary society. The points raised are undeniably noticeable almost where ever we go. I, personally, do agree with the different arguments she had raised in the text. Each of it hits me hard especially when she said "I've learned that the little devices most of us carry around are so powerful that they change not only what we do, but also who we are." These gadgets or technologies surely is convenient for us at times. It does keep us connected from our friends and families from afar. However, too much exposure from it affects us as who we are. For example, the way we perceive love. Some people change how they view love because of the people on social media giving definition to which is true love and which is not through pictures or videos. Most people exposed on social media would adapt to this kind of mindset and became natural to them. That when their partners failed to meet such expectations, they would jump into conclusions and consider it as not true love. I am wondering how pure love would be if we, people, did not meet these unrealistic or unreasonable expectations from our loved ones that is set by the social media.

On the latter part of the article, she stated "we are together, but each of us is in our own bubble, furiously connected to keyboards and tiny touch screens." On the same paragraph, the author expressed the workplace of today's society. Like the majority in us, I have often found

myself in similar situations, creating personal bubbles of comfort with the use of these technologies. However, the article serves as a reminder of the importance of balancing digital connectivity with real-world engagement. Moving forward, I aim to be more mindful of my digital habits and prioritize meaningful face-to-face interactions in the society.

“Texting and e-mail and posting let us present the self we want to be. This means we can edit. And if we wish to, we can delete. Or retouch: the voice, the flesh, the face, the body. Not too much, not too little — just right.” On this note, we can reflect about this on how we always want to present the “acceptable” part of us on social media. We would use different editing platforms to make our pictures presentable on social media. It is like we have this virtual mirror where we can adjust our appearance and personality that we want to project. For example, I take a lot of selfies yet I only post some that looks good. I know that this is not only me but the majority of us in the social media also. But while this level of control can be empowering, it also raises questions about genuine connection.

I’d also like to emphasize the near end part of her article. She stated “Not too long ago, people walked with their heads up, looking at the water, the sky, the sand and at one another, talking. Now they often walk with their heads down, typing. Even when they are with friends, partners, children, everyone is on their own devices.” On my opinion, many changes took place in our society brought by these technologies. I think people before appreciates more including our surroundings, and even the smallest details of the moments of our lives than they are now. The tall trees, the green scenery, the cold breeze of the morning air, the sound of the rain as it pours down our roof, the moments when our mom cooks us pancakes. We enjoy playing with our friends or cousins. We’d still have the most genuine smile even after being wounded up playing running with them. We know how to treasure moments from the smallest or the biggest of it. However, the technologies, including social media and different gadgets, have significantly altered this part of ourselves. Today, most of us prefer getting isolated in our rooms using cellphone all day, scrolling videos and finding contents that will make us laugh. Some would even get upset if they got interrupted in their time with their cellphones. As for me, these advancements and innovations in our technology are not bad. In fact, it helped us in keeping in touch with our relatives from far away. However, everything should always be kept in moderation. If we do not practice limiting ourselves from these chains of technology, our communication skills in public will surely be affected negatively.

## --Conclusion--

To summarize everything that has been stated, Turkle's article emphasized the effects of the social media and technologies and how it shaped today's society. Her description of how digital communication affects our ability to engage in meaningful face-to-face conversations has prompted me to reflect on my own habits and interactions. It argues how we became our society today that is greatly affected by these technologies compared before that they are not bowing down on gadgets and people are well in making or keeping conversations. Nonetheless, we must keep in our mind to use these technologies into our advantage and maintaining moderation is important.