# **Is the Internet really Wasting our Time?**

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**The Value of Wasting Time on the Internet:**

Am I wasting my time on all this stuff? Kenneth Goldsmith is most well known for his conceptual and repurposed writing. In this specific passage, Goldsmith responds to the idea that the internet is a waste of time and energy. He expresses his thoughts on this stance, arguing that although the internet can be distracting and coercive, it can also be a helpful tool that enhances personal growth in his article, Go Ahead: Waste Time on the Internet.

**A Detailed Look at the Internet’s Influence:**

Does clickbait keep us going? Kenneth expresses the fact that we don’t "focus" on one thing the whole time we are on the internet or on our devices. Our time is split into various activities—one minute you could be reading the news, and the next, you are playing a video game. Although clickbait encourages us to keep going down the rabbit hole, it rarely maintains its grasp on the audience for long. Furthermore, this leads us to social media.

Kenneth Goldsmith focuses on the main point that social media keeps us connected. He mentions how his sister-in-law confiscates her kids' devices after dinner. When she asked about their plans for a Friday night, they had none, replying, "You took my phone." They were unable to make plans for the weekend because all their friends were coordinating through texts or social media. Social media can also create its own communities.

Kenneth directs his attention to communities and how the internet affects them. In the article, he talks about how his friend's daughter watches YouTube videos on "bedazzling" her clothes. Her mother isn’t against this, but when the daughter tries to show her mom the videos, she realizes how much time she spends watching them. She doesn't fully understand why. To the daughter, these videos create a safe environment and a community for learning from others with similar interests.

Furthermore, Kenneth writes about how the internet acts as an educational center. He talks about people learning new skills, perfecting their crafts, and even finding their passions through various online platforms. Whether its cooking tutorials, music lessons, or little at home projects, the internet offers an endless archive of knowledge that is only a click away. This aspect of modern life is crucial as it turns the internet into a space not just for relaxation, but also for personal development.

**Analyzing the Internet's Role in Our Lives:**

Clickbait is a clever tool that authors and creators use to entice the audience to open or "click" on their article or video. Most of the time, clickbait pulls us from our first website or video to a second one. After that, clickbait usually filters out, and we start working on something else. For instance, if I were watching YouTube and saw an interesting video, I would click on it. Afterward, I might see another that catches my eye. But eventually, I would move on to something else or get bored. I completely agree with Kenneth on his stance on clickbait and its rabbit-hole effects.

Although new, social media has taken over the world, capturing both new and old audiences. Kenneth discusses how social media is a helpful tool and a crucial social aspect of modern life. Most kids communicate through social media, which has become a norm in today’s society. If kids don’t use social media, they might miss out on many social gatherings or hangouts. Social media is a two-way road, if you want a good experience on it, you’ll have one, if you seek a bad one, that’s what you’ll get. It also provides a community to connect and thrive in.

Additionally, the internet serves as a platform for voices that might otherwise go under the radar. It democratizes information, allowing everyone from experts to beggingers to share their insights and stories. This inclusivity fosters a more connected and informed society, bridging gaps that traditional media often leaves unaddressed.

We search for communities that fit us throughout our lives. An easy and modern way to find a community with the same interests as you is through the internet or social media. When Kenneth talks about his friend's daughter and her YouTube videos, it highlights how important it is for her to watch and incorporate what she learns from this community of "goth" users who teach her how to do things correctly. Even though parents don’t always realize it, the communities we find online are part of our everyday lives, just like newspapers or phone calls for them.

Moreover, the internet's communities offer support that can be vital in our daily lives. Whether it’s groups for mental health support, groups for your hobbies, or educational platforms, these digital communities can become anchors for many. The sense of inclusion and understanding we find in these spaces is similar to real-life communities, showing that virtual relationships can be just as valuable.

**Reflecting on the Internet's Influence and Future Potential:**

Throughout this article, Kenneth Goldsmith demonstrates his disagreement with the title "Go Ahead: Waste Time on the Internet". He discusses the communities created, the social aspects, and his stance on clickbait. Goldsmith shows how the internet and its content can be used effectively, highlighting that in the modern world, the internet is a resource everyone should utilize. His reflections encourage us to rethink the notion of "wasting time" online, showcasing the potential for growth, learning, and connection.

## References

**Goldsmith, K.** (2024). Go ahead: Waste time on the internet. In G. Graff, C. Birkenstein, R. Durst, & L. J. Panning Davies (Eds.), *They say / I say: The moves that matter in academic writing with readings* (6th ed., pp. 401-405). W. W. Norton & Company.