1. What is meant by "Technology has a bias?"

According to the aforementioned articles, technology is not neutral and is biased in nature. The purpose, the use, and the effect of technology all affect people and their way of living. For example, cars spread out cities, allow drivers to pick and choose communities and churches, and change the landscape.

2. What is meant by "technology is not neutral it is value-laden" in BOTH the article and the video?

(The first brain hack video was copystriked, so I could not view it). According to both the article and the videos, technology is created for meeting certain values and often causes people to change their values as well. For example, according to the article, using computers has often brought people to assume all things can be reduced to computer code and computer calculations, even though "not all that counts can be counted"(Article Derek Schuurman). The computer can be used for good or bad, but it does lead to a change in how people value the world, where now people value calculations, intelligence, and stats above wisdom and godly discernment. The videos explained how smartphones and the notification and attention market are using tactics to make people addicted to their own app or platform. One example of using psychology in the app market is Instagram; instead of releasing notifications every time a picture gets liked, app creators found it makes it more exciting for the user if there is longer delays and more like notifications at once. With this method, many people's brains become wired to get anxious when there is no notification, causing them to check their phones every fifteen minutes to alleviate stress. The addicting power shown in the video shows how much app creators value attention and screen time for their own digital creations.

3. What are the implications of recognizing that technology has values embedded?

Recognizing that technology does have embedded values should help people become more aware of how and why they use technology, so that they do not subconsciously use technology for purposes other than their own. For example, when people realize that ads and smartphone apps are competing for the most attention from the user should warn the user that many flashy ads or clickbait articles are more often a waste of his or her time. Personally, recognizing how clickbait works has helped me to not waste as much time on the internet doing things people want me to do and leaving me more time that I can use for my own purposes, such as finishing a school paper or working on a project.

4. What is meant by "counter liturgies"?

Counter liturgies is a strategy of using ancient practices of the early church for praying, meditating, and reflecting in God's word in order to combat the restless and agnostic culture that computers and technology have helped create. Instead of getting the rest God lays out for us in the sabbath, we often are incessantly looking at our phones, reading emails, watching videos, or messaging a friend. Everything is at our fingertips, and we don't know when to stop or to take a rest. As a result, we suffer from spending too little time with God and spending too much time absorbing new information without thinking through or reflecting on what we have learned.

5. Two "counter liturgies"

1. I could set aside a time when we turn off the internet access on my computer so I could spend that time reading God's word

2. I could set aside time for meditating and thinking through challenges in life on Sundays instead of watching youtube videos.

6. Can you identify one relationship between technology and the Biblical story?

Yes, the creations story in Genesis lays out a precedent for all humans. Just as God created the world, the birds, and the animals, humans are encouraged to use different creations from God to create new technology to make the world better and safer. Since we are created in God’s image, God’s creativity is evidenced in our curiosity and determination to use our brains and our tools to design, create, and implement solutions to problems today.

7. Do you feel like technology has manipulated you after learning about persuasive engineering design used on social media apps?

Yes, I can barely remember the days when I was without cellphone and had only Legos, books, and bikes outside to play with. Instead of thinking or reflecting on life or doing something creative and productive like making lego stop animation movies, I now use my free time to browse other creator’s content online, leaving myself a dependent consumer. In addition to losing creativity, I also am more anxious without technology. Instead of trying to figure out things for myself, I find myself only trusting technology for maps, for advice, and for reviews of local shops. Before technology, I used to try and explore on my own, but with technology, I can leave that up to tech reviewers, yelp reviews, and other internet advice.