MONOLGUE

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

**Social relationship**

**Talk about the influence of new technology on social relationship nowadays. Explain how the former have affected the latter both positively and negatively. Provide arguments to support your opinion.**

It is clear that new technologies such as the Internet, smart phones and social media have drastically changed how we socialize with each other. In this monologue I discuss what I believe to be the positive and negative effects of new technologies on our social relationship.

Firstly, no one can deny that one of the main ways new technology has affected social interaction positively is connectivity. I can say without hesitation that smart phones coupled with the Internet means that we are more connected than ever before. Not only can we talk with anyone, at any time, but also in a variety of different ways; with apps such as Face time and Skype making it possible to connect instantly with friend and family anywhere in the world.

Secondly, we are no longer limited by the amount of people we can reach. Technology that was once considered cutting edge utilized by both young and old to reach not just individuals but also to whole communities – or even counties, at the click of a button.

Take, for example, organizing a holiday with friends. Keeping in contact, booking flights, organizing accommodation is now as easy as pie. On a larger scale, new technologies can be used to reach and influence larger audiences, organising large scale demonstrations and even in some cases revolutions such as Egyptian revolution.

Although there are some positives, I firmly believe that new technology has had a negative impact on our social relationships.

Take social media, for example. It’s well documented that these platforms are addictive and promote behavior that I would consider dangerous. In addition, people aren’t having meaningful conversations anymore, there are rather focused on their devices, obsessed with their popularity, which only serves to promote use of these platforms further. It really is a vicious circle.

Another negative aspect is bullying, specifically cyber bullying. The Internet allows users to interact with each other, with very little consequence when it comes to promoting hate or leaving nasty comments on an Instagram post for example. What’s more, new technology provides a level of anonymity whereby people can behind their keyboards and post content that they wouldn’t have dreamt of saying to someone’s face. Cyber bullying is only the tip of the iceberg, with studies showing that suicide rates have increased dramatically in the younger generation.

From my perspective, I believe that it is increased pressure from these applications that is creating a generation who are unhappy, depressed and filled with unrealistic levels of perfection.

In conclusion, I feel that advances in technology mean that we are more connected than our ancestors could have ever dreamed of, being able to instantly connect with anyone, from anywhere in the world. In my opinion, however, it is not all sunshine and rainbows as technology brings with it new pressures which can actually have the opposite effect, destroying social interactions and even causing some people to end their lives. I hope that the future sees greater improvements in technologies aimed at increasing meaningful social interactions but also, I strongly feel that people need to understand the risks of such technology and the potentially harmful consequences.

I think= **I strongly believe, I can say without hesitation**

**What’s more… not only …but also?**

**As easy as pie**

**Vicious circle**