

SPECIALIZED ENGLISH PROGRAM 1  
READER RESPONSE FORM

Name: Geronimo, Matt Gabriel A. Section: AVII-25 Date: Nov. 27, 2024 Score: ...../50

Title of Reading Selection: Are we too dependent on technology?

**Summary**

Direction: Write a one-paragraph (approximately 10 sentences) summary of the reading selection. It should include the title of the reading selection, the author’s name, author’s thesis, and supporting points.

In "Are We Too Dependent on Technology?" by Terry Brown, the author examines society's growing reliance on technology and its cognitive, social, and professional consequences. He argues that while technology enhances efficiency and accuracy, excessive dependence can weaken skills of high importance, such as memory, problem-solving, and independent thinking. He continues by highlighting that tools like sat-navs and GPS have reduced brain activity in areas like the hippocampus, which is vital for navigation and memory. He cites studies showing that relying on technology for everyday tasks can lead to "digital amnesia," a phenomenon where individuals fail to retain basic information, like phone numbers. Furthermore, he explores the risks to professional work, such as surgeons, factory workers, and the like, who may lose manual expertise or even jobs entirely due to the rise of automation. Terry Brown also emphasizes the significant business costs of this dependency, such as decreased memory retention and its negative impact on productivity. While he acknowledges that technology is indispensable in modern life, Brown calls for balance, encouraging individuals to unplug occasionally to maintain their mental sharpness. He concludes by saying that understanding the limits and proper use of technology is crucial for fostering healthier cognitive and societal outcomes. Brown's insights ultimately challenge readers to consider whether their own dependence on technology might be too great.

**Response**

Direction: Write a one-paragraph (approximately 10 sentences) response to the reading selection. It should include your reaction to the author’s thesis, and assessment of author’s achievement of the text’s purpose, clarity, and objectivity.

Terry Brown's thesis in "Are We Too Dependent on Technology?" is thought-provoking, as it raises important concerns about how technology impacts our cognitive abilities and independence. As someone who enjoys video games, I see the validity in his argument, particularly regarding how reliance on devices like GPS or calculators can diminish mental sharpness. While this is true, one could also argue that gaming, especially strategy or puzzle-based games, can challenge the brain and promote skills like problem-solving and spatial awareness, countering some of the negative effects Brown highlights. The author successfully conveys his purpose, presenting compelling studies on "digital amnesia" and the hippocampus's reduced activity. His writing is clear and accessible, making complex ideas relatable with personal anecdotes, such as his struggles with mental math, which I can personally relate to. While Brown's objectivity is generally strong, his tone sometimes leans overly critical of technology, overlooking its role in fostering creativity or building new skills, as gaming can demonstrate. I appreciate his call for balance, as it aligns with my belief that technology, when used thoughtfully, can enhance rather than harm our lives. Overall, Brown's essay is effective in encouraging reflection on how we engage with technology and in prompting readers to reconsider their habits. However, his perspective might benefit from acknowledging technology's diverse, nuanced impacts on different types of users.

**Rubric**

This reader response will be evaluated based on the criteria below:

Criteria	6-10 Points	1-5 Points	Score
Comprehension	Summary demonstrates understanding of main idea and supporting points in the source text	Summary contains inaccurate information.	
Critical Reading	Response demonstrates sound reasoning in reacting to author’s thesis and in justifying analysis and assessment of the text’s communicative value	Response contains one or more logical fallacies.	
Clarity	Ideas in sentences are clearly stated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provides pertinent details of the text (i.e., title, author’s name, some publication details) in an introductory sentence.</li><li>Uses transitional devices and accurate words</li></ul>	Ideas in sentences are not clearly stated.	
Completeness	Important ideas/information from the text are quoted to prove reader’s reaction/rhetorical analysis.	Lacks ideas/information from text which is necessary to prove reader’s reaction/rhetorical analysis.	
Conventions	Writing displays correct grammar, spelling, and mechanics.	Writing displays incorrect grammar, spelling, and mechanics.	