**WP#3 Critical Evaluation: Technology, Language and Writing**

**Drafting**

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The form of technology I identified with is the popular Iphone, or any type of smartphone. The official definition for a smartphone is, “a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running and downloading applications.” Everyone has a smartphone that they use daily and it can be a bit distracting sometimes when we try to get on with our day, but our developed phones are now essential to our everyday life. We do almost everything on it now. We can pay our bills, link over money, watch videos, shop online, google search etc.

We do need an evaluation on this developing technology because it is relativity new and so far there has been positive and reviews on how phones can affect our literacy and language skills. Quite a broad topic but the main focus that I plan to focus on is the ability to gather information and evidence in order for us to analyze and share our thoughts on certain topics. Technology has given us more options to learn new things and gather new ideas by using any device that can access the web. In this case, it is the smartphone. Debates have sprung up quite a few times in response to the increase usage of these modern devices and the public isn’t quite on the same page when asked if it’s helping or harming everyone’s literary skills.

Having a smartphone and being able to use it for literacy purposes sounds like what a typical college student would do. Students today in the modern age are probably viewing the phones in a more positive perspective since they use it for everyday things. Plus a lot of the writing and research can be done on their phones so smartphones are improving their literacy and learning in their view. Search engines and all those apps on the phones can easily help out in grammar, spelling, and writing formatted papers on the go.

Smartphones allow us to: facilitate deep reading by being able to focus in on main ideas and paragraphs of online articles and informative texts. Improving cognitive development, thus developing our skills of filtering out the important information and relevant ones when we do research online. Gives us better accessibility, for example using search engines and apps to find sources and news. Improves critical thinking and communication with other people by sharing ideas and doing discussions and threads online. As well as getting information and evidence, easy to research ideas and topics as well as more options to look at multiple sources.

The popular hardware device that is constantly evolving, the smartphone, has changed the perspective and lifestyle of how people approach writing, also being able to access the internet at any time enables others to easily research and look up information.

Some people argue that access of a lot of data and information actually causes more overload in information, more than necessary and it can be harmful. Others simply claim that even if there is an unlimited amount of information, it just makes it harder to find reliable sources and statistics. Some people might even push the blame onto phones themselves and say that society relies on it too much and people don’t think for themselves, as well as the mention of teens being too invested in their smartphones and don’t do actual reading outside.

**Links to References:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/benefits-drawbacks-internet-research-source-seputarikan-com>

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/11/09/what-is-digital-literacy.html>

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/12/08/more-information-yields-more-learning-and-sharing/>

<http://bgr.com/2016/11/02/internet-usage-desktop-vs-mobile/>

<https://www.mjmedia.co.za/pros-and-cons-of-the-three-major-search-engine/>

**Bibliography:**

Com, S. (2016, April 22). Benefits and Drawbacks of the Internet as a Research Source. Retrieved from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/benefits-drawbacks-internet-research-source-seputarikan-com>

Summary: The article covers a lot on the pros and cons of researching online. Especially since most people now rely on the web more for faster results instead of going to the library just to find one particular information. A good tool to use but with setbacks.

Assess: Speed, multimedia, timeless, etc all those are traits for the internet and its ability to store a unmeasurable amount of information.

Reflect: Phones allow you to use apps that open up the web. So whenever you need any articles, research papers, or online books etc then the internet has it. People need to be responsible however on what they read and make sure the source is reliable.

Heitin, L. (2018, March 01). What Is Digital Literacy? Retrieved from <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/11/09/what-is-digital-literacy.html>

Summary: This written article covers digital literacy, a new term that is growing more popular due to the growing technological advances, especially the internet. Because everyone is now using the internet a lot more and using it to research ideas and other reports, there are new skills that people need to know in order to efficiently use online content to the fullest extend.

Assess: People are aware of the huge information that is presented online as well as being able to create and share content with others, but with all that there is responsibility in posting info as well as a skill that should be learned in order to accurately use sources online.

Reflect: Digital literacy goes hand in hand with looking up content online. With more people using their phones to look things up, they are going to need these skills in order to find good sources and make it easier to surf the web for what they are looking for.

Purcell, K., & Rainie, L. (2014, December 08). More information Yields More Learning and Sharing. Retrieved from <http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/12/08/more-information-yields-more-learning-and-sharing/>

Summary: This article is explaining a survey that they conducted which shows statistics on Americans and if they felt more knowledgeable and more informed due to the internet usage. The results were mostly all positive, being able to look up news, items to buy, pop culture, and other topics that influence people’s daily lives makes it easier for people to learn new things.

Assess: Being able to be in the know of things is a huge deal for Americans since all the reports seem to be most positive and many thing of accessing internet is a good thing.

Reflect: This all connects to sharing information and knowledge of people around the world. mobile phones allow faster updates and an easier time to look things up and share information to each other. Ex; emails, texts, blogs, comments, videos etc

Heisler, Y. (2016, November 03). Mobile internet usage surpasses desktop usage for the first time in history. Retrieved from <http://bgr.com/2016/11/02/internet-usage-desktop-vs-mobile/>

Summary: The article simply gives the reader statistics and numbers on the increasing usage of phones in order to go on the internet. A fairly short and simple article.

Assess: The statistic shows a decline in desktop usage for the internet and the opposite was occuring with mobile and tablets usage. More accessibility must be a big deal for many people now since it seems that more people use the web on the go.

Reflect: Phones being the most used device to access the internet was the reason why I choose the hardware item of smartphones simply because I think people use the internet a lot more on the go when they need to and thus making phones a bit more popular.

Pros and cons of the three major search engines. (2015, August 26). Retrieved from <https://www.mjmedia.co.za/pros-and-cons-of-the-three-major-search-engine/>

Summary: This site simply goes on to explain about the various search engines that people use. It ranks them as well as give pros and cons on each of the sites.

Assess: This is quite relevant due to the fact that everyone uses these search machines every time they want to look up something on the internet. Phones allow this us to access the sites easily on the go and it can enhance how we use our problem solving by searching things up in order to figure out what to do. This site itself is one example of a website found on a search engine that covers the topic of advantages and disadvantages in using the internet to look up anytype of information.

Reflect: The qualities that are listed are mainly features that the search engines’ have and the cons are the same but with more negative views. This shows that there are multiple options of internet search machines available for us to choose from and they are all mostly obtained through smartphones.