

## Week 5 Weblog

When I was in eighth grade, I wrote an extensive report about Ghana. I researched the country's tourist attractions and its history on a superficial level, which is what you would expect for an eighth grade paper. I remember finding pictures of beaches being lit by beautiful sunsets, not the atrocities of E-Waste being burned in the streets as seen in this week's video, "E-Waste Hell".

So far, our class has discussed the history and advancements of the internet and its technology. The past 30 years alone has seen amazing developments in hardware, software, and ideas once thought to be fantasy. The downside to this rapid growth, as seen in the video about E-waste, is large amounts of outdated technology. Large corporations and even people want to have the newest computer, the newest phone, etc. The result? Taking the outdated products to less developed countries to be burned under no regulations nor with any regard to the countries' surrounding cities and people.

I find this sort of waste disgusting and I would like to continue writing about. I understand the chapter "Rethinking Repair" by Steven Jackson was about using the idea of decay and breaking to answer research questions about information technology, but the chapter couldn't escape my main focus, which was the E-waste video. A sentence from the chapter had me think about all the damage we humans do to the world: "So the world is always breaking; it's in its nature to break." We are currently "breaking" our planet, on top of nature running its course, because of our inability to come up with different, more environmentally energy sources and procedures. The quote has more relevance now than the author realizes.

As I continued reading the article, I was hoping the author would touch on the negative environmental effects of technological advancement. The closest thing I got to this request was this: “But why should we care about care? For the purposes of understanding media and technology—how it’s produced, what it does, what powers and freedoms it opens up and forecloses—the language of care does double work.” I understood the author’s points: the power of breaking down ideas opens the doors for new ones and that is how we will propel ourselves into the future. But seriously, none of this should matter if it is at the expense of people who don’t even have the basic necessities first world countries have, let alone the technologies being created. I can say that the idea of breaking down conventional ideas to solve problems is fascinating and it should be used to save our planet first.

#### Works Cited

1. Daniela K. Rosner , Steven J. Jackson , Garnet Hertz , Lara Houston , Nimmi Rangaswamy, Reclaiming repair: maintenance and mending as methods for design, CHI '13 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 27-May 02, 2013, Paris, France
2. Dateline, SBS. “E-Waste Hell.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 25 Sept. 2011, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd\\_ZttK3PuM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd_ZttK3PuM).