Name _____   Date _____/_____/_____

Reading Worksheet for "Nihilism and Technology"
By Nolen Gertz

For this reading worksheet, please read the article from Blackboard and answer the following questions. The article is from chapter 3 of "Nihilism and Technology" book.

1. Name and explain three different positions or attitudes one can assume in relation to technology:

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2. Take the iPhone as an example, what would a pessimist say about this technology?

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3. What would an optimist argue in order to champion self-driving cars?

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4. What was Heidegger's main point in providing an analysis of the "essence" of technology? How did he use this analysis to find a solution to the seemingly intractable problem of defining technology?

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5. What is Heiddegger's most serious concern regarding technology?

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6. Based on Heidegger's point of view, what is dangerous about viewing technology as instrumentality?

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7. What does Heidegger mean by the German word "Gestell"?

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8. What does IHDE mean by "human-technology" relations?

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9. What is a fork besides being a metal stick based on the view of postphenomenology?

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10. Contrary to the fears of Heidegger, how does postphenomenology see our relationship with technology?

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11. What does "law of conservation of attention" imply based on the Heidder's view?

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12. Name four types of human-technology relations derived from Heidegger's analysis of hammering?

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13. Explain briefly what Ihde means by "embodiment" human-technology relations:

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14. Which type of human-technology relation focuses on technologies rather than on the world? What are the consequences of the disappearance of the world from our concern in this relation?

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15. What is the role that nihilism can play in human-technology relations?

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Summary Questions

16. How does one's feelings about technology change technology itself?

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17. Is technology simply a solution to a problem?

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18. Is thinking according to the problem-solution logic problematic in and of itself?

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