

Second Major Essay

Assignment: **Research a Medium of Communication** in 1200-1400 words

In this essay, you will choose a medium of interaction/communication that involves technology. After researching this medium, you will then explain how this technological development is not only changing the nature of interaction, but also the nature of the people/objects/technologies themselves. In other words, you'll want to make an argument for how the technological development you have chosen has changed (or is continuing to change) the way we interact with the world (i.e., is it impacting human behavior, a specific industry, modes of communication, areas of human achievement, etc.)

Possible examples (you do not need to choose from this list):

- 'Faceless' communication (texting, email, social media) and dating
- The printing press and literature
- Telegraphs and 'speedier' communication
- Virtual reality and education
- E-books and the publishing industry
- The I-pad and parenting
- Phone games and productivity
- Live-streaming and ethics
- Facebook memorial pages
- Skype/Facetime and long distance relationships
- Tinder and 'dating culture'
- Arranged marriage sites
- Social media and privacy
- Twitter and 'text talk'

Some questions for you to consider along the way:

- ❖ *What brought about your technological development? Did it arise out of need or out of convenience?*
- ❖ *What were the intended uses of your technological development? And in what ways has your technological development strayed from or failed to live up to those uses?*
- ❖ *What are some of the benefits associated with your technological development? What are some of the negative implications?*
- ❖ *What was the intended audience of your technological development? Was it initially directed towards a specific demographic?*
- ❖ *How was your technological development received by users? What about by non-users?*
- ❖ *What are some of the benefits associated with your technological development? What are some of the negative implications?*

- ❖ *What further advancements came after your technological development? Or what further advancements do you see foresee coming after it, based on the research you've gathered?*

Key Dates

Wednesday, October 11th – Topic Workshop

Monday, October 16th – Thesis workshops (bring a working draft of your thesis to class)

Monday, October 23rd – Rough Draft Workshops (bring a working draft of your essay to class)

Friday, October 25th – Rough Drafts due to the dropbox by 5pm

Monday, November 11th – Final Drafts due to the dropbox before class.