

Activity – II (Short essay)

Question 1.

This article you have read discusses how technology, especially the MP3, kills social interaction, in the lives of people. Being a member of technology-friendly generation, you intend to argue for the benefits of technology in enhancing social interaction.

What are the points that you will bring in, other than the ones listed below? Sit in groups and find a few more points.

Answer:

Technology makes communication faster.

Technology affords diverse formats of interaction. Technology brings people of different places closer. We have such a variety now. Now the whole world is a global village. Face Book and WhatsApp connect people in much a bigger way than before. Technology brings relaxation and a relaxed mind is a more competent mind.

Question 4.

What, according to the author, are the markers to identify the i-Pod generation?

Answer:

According to the author, they walk down the street in their own MP3 cocoon, bumping into others, deaf to small social cues, shutting out anyone not in their bubble. Every now and then, some start emitting some strange tuneless sounds and their fingers snap or their twitch some soundless rhythm. When people tell them, 'Excuse me' or 'Hello', there is no response. They hear so little.

Question 5.

This article is replete with powerful anti-technology words for presenting the arguments of the author. Try to list down those expressions, e.g., anesthetized technology.

Answer:

In their own MP3 cocoon, i-Pod generation emitting strange tuneless squawks, their fingers snap and their arms twitch, glazed pupils, white box worshipers, compulsive obsession, atomization by little white boxes and cell phones, hermit crabs, addictive cults, white wires hanging from their ears, i-Pod generation.

Question 6.

Why does the author say that technology has given us a universe entirely for ourselves?

Answer:

The people today are cut off from the affairs of the world by their technological devices. They do not see or hear anything as they are immersed in a world of their own choice where nothing happens by chance. All technological devices like the satellite radio, cable TV and Cell phone support this world of exclusion so the author says that technology has given us a universe entirely for ourselves.

Question 7.

The author has described the experiences of music in the past and the present to drive home his point. Compare the experience of music in the past with the experience of music in the present.

Answer:

In the past music was a communal experience, shared by people. You had it in the living room or concert hall so that it was a shared experience. It brought people with the same interest together. In the present, music is a secret and each person listens to it individually and we never know what the other person is listening to and so we will never get to know him.

Question 8.

What were the nicer aspects of life that the author noticed when he forgot to take his i-pod on a trip?

Answer:

The author noticed many of the nicer aspects of life when he forgot to take his iPod. He noticed the rhythms of others, the sound of the airplane, the opinions of the taxi driver, and small social cues that he would not notice if he had his iPod.

Question 9.

How did the author enjoy the new experience?

Answer:

He enjoyed the new experience as he felt connected to others as he became more aware of the world around him.

Question 10.

Do you notice anything special about the ending of the essay?

Answer:

Yes. The author has enjoyed the experience of not being a slave to devices the like i-Pod and he seems to be surprised and happy. He realises that the world has a special and interesting rhythm or sound-track of its own and he encourages everyone to listen to it and experience it.