

In today's world, everything is just a touch of a button. We strive for convenience and accessibility. All we're looking forward to is the latest and greatest. We are being raised in an era that is technology dependent. We are trapped in a generation with a gadget for everything. For example, we have personal computers, cell phones, radios, and alarm clocks. The innocence of our society has disappeared and has transformed into a futuristic culture. By innocence or rawness, I mean inexperienced in the field of technology, living our lives in harmony without mechanical tools. Our society is rapidly being advanced, from entertainment to the environment. We're not only upgrading our technology, but our lifestyle. Have technologies and social advancements affected our culture?

We have been caught up in the accessible, convenient, efficient lifestyle of our advancements. Our dependency on our gadgets is changing the American culture. Our society has abandoned the rawness of social interaction and people are becoming less-self reliant due to the overwhelming amount of technology.

Our technological advancements play a huge role in our society. For example, computers surround us, they're in the office, our homes, and are used in schools. Our gadgets and cell phones are practically glued to our palms, we never leave the house without them. Technology surrounds us everywhere we go. We live in a fast paced society and are reliant on our technology to move just as fast as we do. We continue to advance our gadgets to make them faster and more portable. Today, everything is mobile and accessible everywhere we go. With smart gadgets like the iPad, iPhone, and tablets, users can easily have access to information because all those devices can access to the broadband Internet, which provides us with fast, reliable news and info in the palm of our hands. We have taken away the beauty that the outdoors can provide and we are beginning to discard the memorable moments with our loved ones by replacing our time and money with the advancements. With communication being a huge part of our society, we are constantly upgrading multiple ways to keep in touch with people. With various types of ways to communicate, it makes it easier to keep in contact with people all the time. Phones and mobile devices have been the greatest invention when it comes to keeping in contact with people. We are dazed by how the cellular device enables one to easily communicate with friends and family all over the world with just a touch of a button. With the multiple forms of communication the social aspects of our lives have changed drastically.

Aside from cell phones, the Internet has become another form of communication with the various social media sites that have been booming. People across the nation are logging on to sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Skype. These sites were created to find and keep in touch with old and new friends. There are more concerns not only with their social status, but also "social media status." People are posting the latest events and juiciest gossip on their social media accounts. Everyone wants to continuously update their profile that contains a page that fully reflects who they are or who they want to be. These "statuses" are becoming overpowering in our social lives. All we're beginning to care about is what people think of us and this is why we continue to alter who we want to be.

All these various intentions of communication are benefiting our culture but also taking away from raw social interaction. People are becoming dependent on their computers and phones to communicate with others. Everyone is starting to take advantage of these communication advances. Even when you're hanging out with people in person you are taking advantage of their presence by communicating through your phone and texting other friends and updating your Facebook status. Overall, our advances in communication have been more of a destruction to our

social community than an advantage. We have abandoned many raw aspects of our lives due to our technological advances, communication being one of the many.

In the area of technology we have been continuing to advance. Our methods of communication have been invented to contact each other quicker than ever. People can now keep in touch with texting, phone calls, video chat, and social media sites.

Not only are we advancing technology, but also we're after improving ourselves. We're never satisfied with our latest look; we want to copy a celebrity's appearance like in a magazine and on television. We alter our style, body, and even personality, but really we're covering up our true selves, packing on the make-up to cover the imperfections, burning off our problems at the gym, and layering our limbs with a style that we can't even call our own. Our appearance never meets our own standards. We just continue to alter and upgrade ourselves and it's getting easier than ever with all the technological advances. Are we really upgrading ourselves or taking away the pureness of our true beauty?

There's a contrasting difference between our era and previous generations. We look in the mirror and are never satisfied with the reflection we see. Our new gadgets are only temporary because the latest and greatest has yet to come. When we compare this generation to others it can prove that we don't need our devices for a good time. Atmospheres of other eras were much better off without the fancy gadgets. During an era like the Roaring Twenties, they were scarce on their technology. They went to a field to play sports instead of picking up a remote control to play it on a television screen. There was a lot more physical activity than there is now. We have lost the richness of physically playing an instrument and instead we are putting in our headphones and tuning out the world. Playing a sport or instrument are more rich because they give one dedication and responsibility to practice, determination for improvement, and you can show off your success to people. Many forms of entertainment have lost their pureness and have been replaced with our advancements. We are getting a different taste of life growing up in this technologically based generation. In *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau states, "Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new."

All the advances come with many advantages. The technology advances are also showing people a more efficient way to do things. With the advancements of social networking it's easier than ever to discover old and new friends. People are getting more active when it comes to organization, storing documents, music, contacts, etc. Everything is also becoming portable. Phones are hand held and contain features like the Internet, so you can easily read breaking news while traveling. A lot of data is being published and indexed online, sites like Wikipedia and Youtube have great original content, which can be used in research or entertainment. Overall, technology advances have simplified our lives. Our advances also come with multiple cons. When a machine breaks or a computer crashes, we become almost disabled until the problem is resolved. This kind of dependency on technology puts people at a distinct disadvantage, because they become less self-reliant. With people spending more time learning how to use the new technology they are neglecting their real lives and is resulting in loneliness. People are getting too attached to their gadgets are abandoning the value of their friends and family. People are logging onto their social media sites and 'creeping' and updating their profiles and statuses instead of physically going out with their friends. Others are turning on Netflix and watching season after season of their favorite television series. I think this dependency is becoming a sick obsession. We are falling back on our technology and abusing its innovations. We need to hold back on our resources and take in our natural surroundings again.

I think a huge factor with advancing our self and our devices is because we are concerned about our social status. We buy high end to look high end. We're after the biggest and the best so that we can fit in. We don't want people to look down on us because of what we have and what we look like. When we first invite people into our lives we like to show off a little. Even complete strangers, we want to leave an impression. Everyone does it. Poor or rich, we all like to show off our best side. We think if we look our best then we'll be our best. Why do we feel like we need to impress people by showing off our possessions? This generation is distraught by all the advancements that are taking place around them and are unable to discover who they are and what they stand for. An impeccable amount of people in this era are followers. Loads of people are trending the same style, texting on the same iPhone, and a becoming a replica of someone else. I'm viewing that our advances are turning into a problem in our society. We are abusing our upgrades by overusing them. We are abandoning the pureness of human contact and raw materials right outside our doorstep and replacing it with devices that we store our lives in. I think we need to let loose from receiving the next upgrade and advance in our inner selves by ditching the hardware.

Life is about the upgrade. We are living in a fast paced society and we need to advance as fast as we live our lives. We need everything to move with us, so we invent portable and mobile. We need a remote to control our chaotic lifestyles. Our definitions of entertainment and communication have taken a twist into an innovative term. Our culture continues to advance into a futuristic society. Advancing our technology and ourselves in hope to find happiness. Is that what these upgrades are all about? Happiness? This generation has been corrupted by our technology; it's done more harm than good. Anyone need an upgrade?

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