

Student Name Alexa Suess  
Teacher Name Mr. LaSalle  
Greenport High School, Greenport, NY

Essay Title: **Is technology critical to a live presentation? Or is technology just a crutch?**

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "A mind once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." So in a world that bears the marks of historical advances from mankind, it's no surprise that the sharing of ideas through the centuries has changed. Where once a man stood in an arena to share his view; now the use of computer graphics, three-dimensional vectors and eye-catching visuals are utilized to assist in the expression of ideas, opinions and thoughts.

But one must ask; is such brilliant technology a detriment or a logical addition to the process of sharing ideas? While many distinguished orators have gone centuries without the crutch of new presentation methods, such techniques can be a tremendous help in many ways.

Developing a connection with the audience is a fundamental goal while speaking. By doing so, the listeners can connect with the speaker and develop a relationship in which they are comfortable with exchanging thoughts. However, accomplishing this connection isn't always easy, and this is exactly where the technological aides come in. Why not make it easier for everyday people to share their ideas? The use of slideshow programs and projectors simplify the processing of information by both the speaker and the audience, allowing free flowing collaboration and increased effectiveness. Who knows, the aide of such visuals might just spark a thought that would not have come to fruition otherwise!

In these times where most things are done digitally it's time to change our thinking about public speaking. As long as you have an idea, and it's spoken from the heart, this technology will not only aid you in sharing it, but will also help in changing the world through the collaboration of humankind.