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

In the modern age, technology can readily be used to enhance a presentation. However, enhance is all it can do. The foundation of an outstanding presentation lies solely in the hands of the speaker. Without a charismatic, passionate individual, a decent presentation simply cannot exist. Relying on technology greatly hinders the ability to give the most effective presentation possible.

All of the various technology in the current era makes a solid presentation challenging. Why memorize your speech when you can read it off your PowerPoint? Or a teleprompter? However, these take away from the delivery, which is the second most important part of a speech, next to substance. Eye contact is a major component of a good delivery; it engages the audience and lets them know you are talking to them, not at them. Eye contact cannot be made while reading off of a slideshow. Furthermore, simply reading of a pre-written slide takes the passion out of a speech and without passion, the audience's attention cannot be held. Without the attention of the audience, any kind of substance the speech may have had would be useless.

Clearly, technology is an effective method for making presentations. For example, videos can help convince prospective students to enroll at a particular college. But, all technology can do is enhance a presentation. Simply trying to show someone a video will not convince them, they need substance along with it. Explanations and information which will make them question their preconceived notions and give them new insight. A simple video cannot change the minds of students so drastically. A moving presentation is led by a speaker and a speaker alone; technology can enhance such a presentation, but in the end it is only a crutch.