

Student Name John Fuller  
Teacher Name Sharon Gdaniec  
Seneca High School, Wattsburg, PA

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

Every generation has brought with it new advances that have changed and defined the way that they live their lives. One hundred years ago it was the automobile while fifty years ago it was the television. Today computers and cell phones define our modern society. This includes any type of presentation whether it be in a board room or a high school physics class. Not a day goes by where a high school class is not subjected to a PowerPoint or where high ranking executives don't demonstrate the increased feasibility of their product through computer simulations or other products of technology. Ten or even five years ago technology could have been seen as just an aid that wasn't necessarily needed for a presentation but today that is no longer the case.

The truth is that technology has become the norm in today's society. If you are not using it you are automatically seen as one step behind others that do. This can be observed in many high school classrooms that have projectors, smart boards, and banks of laptops waiting to be used. Although many schools suffer from budget deficits, technology is seen today as a tool that is indispensable to the learning process. Many companies also see the benefit of technology with presentations. Stacks of papers and posters are not needed when a presentation or interactive computer program can more efficiently provide the information needed to win over your clients. Lecturers can give you all of the information you need but without technology the points they support seem to fall flat. Randy Pausch's last lecture can attribute to this as he uses presentations and videos to show the virtual realities his students have made instead of simply describing them. Technology provides another element to a presentation that will ensure it is all it can be. This is why technology is no longer the advancement, or crutch, of the twentieth century but instead the norm of everyday life in the twenty-first.