

Student Name Sam Blitz
Teacher Name Kate Crowe
Jess Schwartz Academy, Scottsdale, AZ

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

A live presentation consists of many things: a speaker, an audience, a topic, a context. All of these things are essential to an effective presentation, but in recent years, one more thing has been added to the list of necessities: technology. In the last ten or so years, technology has become a more and more critical aspect of live presentations, due to the multi-mode learning nature of human beings. We do not only learn by listening, and we certainly do not only learn by seeing or touching, tasting or smelling. However, all of these different modes of learning help an audience retain knowledge in different ways, and thus, by adding them together, we are capable of retaining even more information.

So how does technology help a presenter use multiple senses to inform his audience? The most obvious method would be to speak while giving a PowerPoint presentation. This way, the audience experiences the information both auditorily and visually. With twice the amount of senses used, one can infer that there will be twice the amount of information retention.

Technology can also be used to provide hands-on experiences during presentations. For example, with the use of small, cheap, mobile devices, a presenter can provide everyone in his audience with an interactive portion of his presentation, by, for example, having them answer a quiz prior to and after the presentation on a website linked to the audience's phones, etc.

There are not yet ways to incorporate taste and smell via technology into live presentations, but it is not unforeseeable that such a development would occur, for it would help the transmission of knowledge and information from the presenting party to the audience.

Because the best ways to attain knowledge are by using multiple senses, technology is critical for a live presentation's effectiveness.