

Student Name Karla Gabriela Diaz-Hernandez  
Teacher Name Paige Wells  
Tift County High School, Tifton, GA

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

Demosthenes. Gandhi. Hitler. Mother Teresa. They shifted the earth with verbal bullets. PowerPoint did not yet exist. They sprinkled spectator ears with heavenly and infernal eggs that transformed into plagues of gadflies. YouTube did not yet exist. To say that technology is optional for live presentations is to acknowledge thousands of years of history: orators who instigated shifts of paradigms with speech. The current exaggerated reliance on technology to formulate an impressive presentation creates a situation of excessive reliance on the gadgets, and a dearth of self-reliance. There comes a lynching of spontaneity and the presenter is often dehumanized by the robotic methods of technological presentations. It becomes easy to forget that technology is vulnerable and beatable, because the technology seems so grand. A great speaker is orating. A local storm is brewing. The electricity is castrated by lightning and the magic of the room with luminous screens and blaring speakers is pulverized. Immediately, technology can become dysfunctional and obsolete. Talent is forever.

First- world countries constantly concoct technologies to benefit other ravenous first-world countries. But we do not live in a first-world world. While students in my math class benefit from advanced Promethean Boards, millions of students and teachers in other countries, and in underprivileged areas of the United States, have no computer access. An unjust separation forms between students in the upper and lower echelon, first-world students and third-world students. A malicious cycle is formed where people of higher social class continue to hold the fireball of power with better growing opportunities, while the people of the lower class are trampled. While the leading role is always the speaking part, it is preferable for a person with intellect and eloquence to hold the speaking part, rather than the man with the bulgy pockets.