

REACTION PAPER

I have read about the “The Flight From Conversation” by Sherry Turkle. This was published last April 21, 2012. The article emphasizes how modern day technologies over the years has change profoundly the way people communicate with each other. Technology affects people anytime, anywhere by paying attention to their cellphones, checking their social medias and putting on earphones. Although technology has given us many forms of communication and make things better and even easier, face to face conversation unfolds slowly, and it limits our growth as human beings and being disconnected from the real world. Technology has a great impact on becoming who we are because we are hooked in using these technologies. I agree with the article that technology keeps us away from a face to face conversation because nowadays people are engage in using technology in checking their social media accounts, updating what they do, where they are, to the point that they tend to forget the real world. Face to face communication is still the most effective way of communicating because we can really feel the sincerity of the person we talk to than relying on messages through devices.

In today’s modern world of technology, it is so obvious that we people allows to be influenced by these devices or gadgets to change our method of

communication. Due to the fact that people stay connected with their devices for texting and e-mail messaging, they found it to be easy and a fast way of conveying messages without delay and without having to set time and dates for meeting up personally. Even at home, each member of the family can be seen holding cellphones in front busy texting and reading e-mails, laptops on the table as well as inside the office that no one wants to get interrupted or disturbed. According to Sherry Turkle, we become accustomed to a new way of being “alone together”. This tells us that even though people don’t have face to face conversation, they still able to communicate through social media. As long as they are able to keep in touch with each other, they forget the importance of having face to face communication.

Oftentimes people find happiness and contented in spending more of their time with their devices be it cellphones, tablets, laptops. As what Sherry Turkle said “Texting and E-mail and posting let us present the self we want to be. This means we can edit and if we wish to, we can delete or retouch; the voice, the flash, the face, the body. Not too much, not too little – just right.” Probably because they are thinking that these devices make it more easy for them to stay connected with others but unknowingly, this is keeping them away or disconnected with each other. Technology bait us into a make believe life, as we are slowly being pulled away from a sense of who we are and what really matters. Through communication, we are able to express and exchange thoughts, feelings, ideas, and discuss well whatever information

was given. Face to face conversation makes us fully understand each other, less mistakes, less misunderstanding and corrections can be made and misunderstanding can be settle at once.

We need to value face to face communication wherein there should be a device free zone at home so that members in the family will get to talk to each other. As well as in the work place or offices, in which allowing everyone to listen with each other. Or simply making up a rule of 'no using of gadget...' that can implement at home and workplace. As what Sherry Turkle mentioned "I have often heard a statement "no one is listening to me". I believe this feeling helps explain why it is so appealing to have a Facebook page or a Twitter feed where each provides so many automatic listeners." This is the result when somebody is looking and longing for someone to talk to and find no one sending and sparing little of their time to listen to them. That's why they will turn to social media for automated listeners. Let us keep in our mind that these can never replace real conversation. We should never allow these technologies to make more space in our lives as we no longer develop self-reflection. "So I say, look up, look at one another, and let's start the conversation" as mentioned by Sherry Turkle. We should always consider having a good quality way of communication. Let us learn to listen to each other and discourage people to tend to listen to automatic listeners.

Let's bring back the time when we are not yet engrossed with modern devices. We are always ready to listen to one another. We can feel the joy and trust whenever we talk face to face. Remember that constant connection

is far different from face to face conversation and that constant connection according to Sherry Turkle will only make us lonely. So let us not make these devices be the main tool for communication because we don't want to be lonely rather we all want to be happy. The essence of talking face to face is fading. We tend to communicate with other people through social media wherein fact we don't know the feelings of the person whom we're talking to, if he or she is serious, or if he or she is in sarcastic tone. We cannot really tell because we don't see that person. Although technology has helped us to have a quick response to other people and to communicate with people right away, it is much appreciated to talk to people face to face so that you can really see and can tell about their emotions or feelings in that way, you can communicate or response appropriately. Technologies may be the fastest way to communicate but we should not forget that we still live in the real world, we focus more on the technologies where we update our social media accounts and slowly becoming in the virtual world and changing ourselves. We spend too much time isolating ourselves and disconnecting from the real world in order to maintain the perception of being connected.