Summer Reading or Activity 3.1.1

Reflections and guided reading questions for "Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion." First Edition Chapter 1.

Before you start this assignment, please read the description of high-quality written responses which includes expectations and samples.

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1. What is the digital explosion and how has it changed things for us?

2. What assumptions do we have about privacy, identity, and who controls our lives?

3. Technology creates surprises and things don't often work as we expect them to. Give two examples.

4. What happened to Tanya Rider?

5. How can cell phones be used to track your location?

6. What conflicting factors delayed Tanya's rescue?

The authors introduce 7 separate **Koans** – truths- about digital information technology. Describe what each Koan means AND give a specific example of how each concept relates to you personally.

7. Koan #1: "It's All Just Bits."

8. Koan #2: Perfection is Normal

9. Koan #3: There is Want in the Midst of Plenty

10. Koan #4: Processing is Power

11. Koan #5: More of the Same can be a Whole New Thing

12. Koan #6: Nothing Goes Away

13. Koan #7: Bits Move Faster than Thought

14. Explain Moore's Law in your own words. Is it still relevant?

15. The authors conclude the chapter with the argument that…
    - *Technology per se is neither good nor bad, and*
    - *New technologies usually mean new opportunities and new challenges.*

    To illustrate these concepts, research and answer these questions…
    a. What was the Arab Spring?

    b. Who is Megan Meier?

    c. Using the concepts from 15a & 15b above, describe the role that social media played in both the Arab Spring and with Megan Meier.

16. Computing innovations can raise legal and ethical concerns. Give a few examples from the book.