

Emerging Technology

Ted Talks – <http://www.ted.com>

Name Karla Prats

Hour 1

- ✓ You will watch the following Ted Talk and respond to the following focus questions.
- ✓ You can access the Talk at the URL address below.
- ✓ You may answer the questions on your own or with a partner.

[Sherry Turkle: Connected, but alone?](http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together.html) 19:48

As we expect more from technology, do we expect less from each other? Sherry Turkle studies how our devices and online personas are redefining human connection and communication -- and asks us to think deeply about the new kinds of connection we want to have. TED2012, Filmed Feb 2012, Posted Apr 2012 http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together.html

1. According to the Talk, what are the places that technology is taking us to, that we don't want to go?
Being on our phones during meetings, funerals or just hanging out with friends. It's making us feel more lonely when we're alone.

2. What are some examples of inappropriate use of technology that were mentioned in the Talk?
Using phones during meetings, funerals, parents too focused on their phones to watch their kids and kids too focused on their phones to spend actual time together.

3. What does Ms. Turkle mean by being "Alone Together"?
People will be together physically, like next to each other, but mentally they're somewhere else.

4. What does she mean by "Hiding From Each Other"?
We hide our true selves from each other. We want to portray ourselves perfectly like we can on social media.

5. How does "conversation → connection" happen according to the Talk?
There is a difference in conversations now than there were before technology's time. Our conversations are short and unfocused.

6. What concern is raised with kids who would rather "Text than Talk"?
They don't know how to have conversations, and no one is really listening to them.

7. What impact does the feeling that "No one is listening" have on people?
It makes people feel lonely, so they look to technology for a companion whether that be sociable robots or meeting someone online.

8. Why are people tempted by machines that offer companionship?
Because they probably offer more attention than the people in their lives.

9. Why are people expecting more from Technology and less from each other?
Technology is becoming more reliable, and it's simple and not confusing like humans are. It takes less effort to consult in a robot than it would to consult in a human.

10. What is the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship?
fake empathy

11. What are the 3 things mentioned in the Talk, that we all want, in order to be comfortable and in control?

1. put our attention wherever we want it to be. 2. We will always be heard. 3. We will never have to be alone.

12. Being alone feels like a problem that needs to be solved, the Talk mentions the concept of “I share therefore I am”. Explain what the following perceptions mean:

➤ I have a feeling → I want to make a call (*past*)

a person wants to actually have a conversation with someone about what they're feeling.

➤ I want to have a feeling → I need to send a text (*current*)

A person makes up or forces themselves to have a feeling so that they can talk to someone about it because they are afraid of being alone.

13. How does “connection → isolation” happen according to the Talk?

Connection is more like a symptom than a cure. Constant connection is not healthy. Sharing thoughts and feeling all the time makes conversation less genuine. So no connection makes us feel less like ourselves.

12. According to the Talk, “solitude is where you find yourself before you reach out to know someone else”. What do they/you see as the power of this statement?

It looks to me as you need to learn to love yourself before loving others. Without knowing who you are, how are you going to get to know others? We're not able to appreciate other people if we don't know how to be alone.

13. How would you explain the following statement from the Talk, “If we don't teach our children to be alone, they will only know how to be lonely”.

Your children will follow after your footsteps, so if you feel lonely every time you're alone and desperately seek attention all the time through social media, your children are going to think being alone is a bad thing.

14. How do we make our actual/real life, the life we love?

Self reflect on where your current use of technology stands.

15. Write three additional thoughts/reactions that you had to the Talk.

I thought it was interesting how she pointed out that most people feel alone and awkward when they're standing in a grocery line or sitting at a red light. I found this to be very true as most people, including myself, fidget with things when they're alone and in order to feel less lonely, they'll reach for their phones.

I've always had the feeling that social media and constantly using it is unhealthy for us but now I realize that it's the idea of wanting attention all the time that is unhealthy. Breaks from technology would definitely benefit the mind, in my opinion.

The story of the elderly woman and her sociable robot really got through to me because hearing about something like that is just kind of sad. Humans are so incapable of empathy and understanding each other now a days that we're making robots for it? Insane.