

Anthropologists traditionally study human behavior and culture. _____

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Amber Case is an anthropologist, but she studies a different type of anthropology.

Amber is a cyborg anthropologist. Do you know what a cyborg is? Part human, part machine, a cyborg is usually associated with science fiction movies or comic books.

Amber believes that in today's digital world, we're all cyborgs. We rely on technology all the time. Our cell phones and tablet computers are like extra body parts that we carry around with us. "Our cell phones have become like children," explains Amber. "_____

_____. We plug them into the wall and feed them. When they're lost, we panic."

In the past we humans developed tools that extended our physical abilities. We used them to improve the environment, farm the land, move around faster or protect ourselves. In the twenty-first century, our smart tools--our gadgets--extend our mental abilities. With modern technology we can communicate faster and find any information we want in an instant. Social media _____

_____. So friendships can form based on our shared interests, not just our location.

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Amber thinks there is also a negative side to our cyborg selves. She worries that our constant access to other people interferes with our ability to just be alone. Wherever we are, there's someone we know who's online and ready to interact with us. "We aren't taking time to slow down and figure out who we really are," says Amber.

"We're sharing with each other--human to human--in a very real way."

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Although there is a lot of positive things about technology, Amber thinks there is also a negative side to our cyborg selves. She worries that our constant access to other people interferes with our ability to just be alone. Wherever we are, there's someone we know who's online and ready to interact with us. "We aren't taking time to slow down and figure out who we really are," says Amber.

Despite these concerns, Amber doesn't think that machines are taking over. "We're sharing with each other--human to human--in a very real way."