

Emerging Technology

Ted Talks – <http://www.ted.com>

Name

Hour

- ✓ 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?
[It's taking us to an alternate universe that we can escape to when we don't want to face our reality.](#)
2. What are some examples of inappropriate use of technology that were mentioned in the Talk?
[meetings, classes, during dinner with family, with friends, funerals](#)
3. What does Ms. Turkle mean by being "Alone Together"?
[being with each other but also elsewhere, customizing their life](#)
4. What does she mean by "Hiding From Each Other"?
[not wanting to interrupt colleagues/ be interrupted while on their phones](#)
5. How does "conversation → connection" happen according to the Talk?
[When you talk to someone in person you can get to know them better than over text.](#)
6. What concern is raised with kids who would rather "Text than Talk"?
[People become okay with small talk and not actually learning substantial things about people that they won't even know how to have an actual conversation when necessary.](#)
7. What impact does the feeling that "No one is listening" have on people?
[It makes you feel like what you have to say is not even important and that you can just say whatever you want without any repercussion because people aren't paying attention to you anyway.](#)
8. Why are people tempted by machines that offer companionship?
[It eliminates the awkwardness and confrontation that can sometimes occur with human interaction.](#)
9. Why are people expecting more from Technology and less from each other?
[Technology is evolving so much and people are becoming more and more consumed in it so no one really expects people to be all that great.](#)
10. What is the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship?
[Having someone to be with and do things with but not actually connecting with and knowing that person fully.](#)
11. What are the 3 things mentioned in the Talk, that we all want, in order to be comfortable and in control?

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*)
You want to call a person for assurance
 - I want to have a feeling → I need to send a text (*current*)
when you want something that isn't there, but it's easy to access immediately through text
13. How does “connection → isolation” happen according to the Talk?
When you connect with things online more than with actual people so you're more isolated from the real world and things happening around you.
14. 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? You have to know what isolation and loneliness feels like before you really desire human connection.
15. 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”.
If you are constantly surrounding yourself with distractions from yourself, you will never learn how to be alone and not be lonely. You need to know how to be with yourself.
16. How do we make our actual/real life, the life we love?
Go out and find people and things that make you forget there's a whole other cyber world out there.
17. Write three additional thoughts/reactions that you had to the Talk.