

Emerging Technology

Ted Talks – <http://www.ted.com>

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2

- ✓ 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?
Funerals and workplaces.
2. What are some examples of inappropriate use of technology that were mentioned in the Talk?
Sociable robots and facebook pages. People are using robots now to find comfort instead of people.
3. What does Ms. Turkle mean by being "Alone Together"?
Everybody is in the same boat. Everyone is connected through technology, but in reality we are alone.
4. What does she mean by "Hiding From Each Other"?
People today say things behind a phone that they would never say in person, because they are scared of what people will think of them.
5. How does "conversation → connection" happen according to the Talk?
Having a real conversation with a real person in person leads to real connections.
6. What concern is raised with kids who would rather "Text than Talk"?
Are those kids going to be capable of having a real conversation face to face?
7. What impact does the feeling that "No one is listening" have on people?
It makes people turn to technology because they feel a real conversation with a real person won't work.
8. Why are people tempted by machines that offer companionship?
They are lonely and a need to find comfort. They are scared to find friendship.
9. Why are people expecting more from Technology and less from each other?
Technology appeals to us most when we are most vulnerable.
10. What is the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship?
We expect more from technology and less from each other. We are lonely, but afraid of intimacy.
11. What are the 3 things mentioned in the Talk, that we all want, in order to be comfortable and in control?

intimacy

feeling of being wanted

comfort

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*)

I have something I need to tell someone else, I am going to call them now.

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

I crave attention from a certain other, I am just going to text them and see what happens.

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

People are scared of connection, so they isolate themselves from everyone else,.

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?

When you are lonely, finding yourself is important before going to other people. You can’t count on technology to fix your loneliness.

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 we don’t teach our children to be strong, independent people who don’t always count on technology, then they will only stay lonely.

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

We get off of our technology and go out into the real world. We can then discover ourselves and learn what real relationships are.

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

I thought this talk was very motivational to get up and make things happen. It made me very concerned about what the future is going to look like. The video also made me realize that I need to get off of my phone more often.