

Authors note

1. Is the MLA format correct and do you think my writing flows effectively?

Your citation is proper at the end and also it seems as though you reference the author of the article a few times during the writing as well. However it might be worth noting that technically, the proper format of an in text citation would be something like this: (Fligge)

at the end of a sentence. The writing flows fairly well, but it could be improved by tightening sentences and using clearer topic sentences. The current draft often summarizes the article's content rather than focusing on how Harrington's choices influence the reader.

2. Is my thesis statement effective and well done?

I think your thesis is pretty good, the only thing I would really say is that it could be tightened up a little bit. Something like: By employing powerful metaphors, credible evidence, and a purposeful tone, Harrington effectively argues that technology is transforming deep thinking into a luxury good, primarily accessible to those who choose to unplug. But realistically, your looks really really good, it would just be up to you on how much you wanted to change it.

3. What part of the paper needs the most work?

This was pretty hard for me to decide, because I think everything was really good in this paper. What I came down to: The body paragraphs need the most work, specifically regarding the transitions and depth of analysis. While you identify the main rhetorical strategies (metaphors, evidence, tone), the analysis often stays on the surface level.

Rylan Windmiller

Professor Heimer

English 2500

19 September 2025

Rhetorical Analysis

In the article “*Thinking Is Becoming a Luxury Good*” by Mary Harrington, it argues that technology is becoming a distraction from learning and is affecting the behavior, skills, and health of individuals. Today’s use of technology has become a source of distraction that negatively affects the mental habits and health of many individuals. Harrington’s writing is directed at a well-educated set of readers that are increasingly concerned about these social trends, especially the impact of digital media on youth, education, and cognitive development. With the use of a variety of metaphors, credible evidence, and tone, Harrington effectively displays how the ability to engage in deep thinking is being molded by technology into a luxury good, accessible to those who unplug.

The target audience seems to be thoughtful, well informed readers, many of whom may already be uneasy about the rapidly expanding influence of technology in everyday life. These readers are likely to value critical thinking skills, are concerned with child development and education due to the impact and influence of media, and are increasingly aware of the problems that come with overexposure to screens. In order to address these major concerns Harrington frames it by explaining deep thought and undistracted focus as increasingly endangered abilities, especially with newer generations. The author presents a notable contrast on the matter. While tech elites research and work towards ways to guard their families from the growing digital

overload, the general population continues to stay tethered to devices and media designed to affect attention in their users. By hijacking and utilizing the reader's existing anxieties and values, Harrington develops a powerful emotional and mental connection that enhances the overall effectiveness of the argument.

One of the most impactful and effective rhetorical strategies Harrington uses is a metaphor. Comparing the different forms of digital media consumption to junk food. It works in a way such as how processed foods are engineered to override hunger cues and help promote unhealthy eating habits, the author suggests that the digital media forms are designed to negatively impact attention and keep the wide demographics of people mindlessly scrolling. This powerful comparison is particularly impactful for the target audience, who are likely familiar with the different health debates around nutrition and can easily make the connections between the dangers of overconsumption and unhealthy eating habits. By comparing the habits of technological problems to unhealthy eating habits, Harrington excels in simplifying a complex cognitive issue and makes it much more understandable and relatable to readers. It allows the many readers to comprehend the mental impact of constant online engagement in powerful, easy to follow terms, showing not only what is happening to our cognitive ability, but also the reasoning behind why it's happening and what it takes to counter its effects. This metaphor effectively supports the thesis by pointing out impactful connections between how digital tools are undermining personal health and learning and the negative physical health implications of bad eating.

In addition to the rhetorical methods previously mentioned, Harrington further strengthens the argument through the use of credible sources and factual evidence. There are many references to studies in neuroscience, discusses notable and observable trends in high level

education, and directs attention to how certain behaviors are beginning to emerge based on different divisions. The strategic use of these references help to enhance the article's credibility and appeal to the audience's logical reasoning. For countless readers who look for thoughtful and well built arguments, the inclusion of data offers not just emotional connections for the reader but impacts them intellectually as well. By connecting the various concerns to research and real life examples, Harrington avoids any alarming claims and instead builds a convincing, evidence centered, well structured case for the long term cognitive risks of being digitally dependent. This strategy reinforces the thesis by showing that the notable downsides of digital distraction are not just hypothetical. Rather, they are already becoming apparent in schools, workplaces, and homes. These are displayed effectively throughout facts that make it impossible to ignore.

Finally, the strong use of tone throughout the article is controlled yet powerful, a rhetorical choice that effectively ligns up with the audience's likely emotional state or standings. There is a strong conveyance of genuine concern, which allows for the readers to feel both validated and involved rather than becoming panicked by the matter. The underlying tone of the article portrays a quiet seriousness, which allows for reflection and encourages the readers to take action. For people who suspect the harmful downsides of technology and digital media, this well directed tone adds a sense of urgency without overwhelming the reader. It also makes the issue much more personalized. By pointing out that the forms of deep thinking may soon be a good reserved for those with the capabilities to shield themselves from digital influence, Harrington adds an impactful moral and emotional aspect to the writing that further engages the reader. This tone does multiple things like support her argument, but it also makes the article resonate on a personal level.

In conclusion, Mary Harrington's "Thinking Is Becoming a Luxury Good" presents a strong and well thought out argument that strongly encourages readers to reconsider the aspects of technology in modern day activities. Using vivid metaphors, strong and credible sources, and an emotional connection to the readers, Harrington effectively displays the growing proclamation influence of technology and its effect on who is able to utilize deep thinking in a digitally controlled world. The numerous rhetorical strategies utilized simplify complex issues on the topic and aids in supporting the claims. It works to engage both the minds and hearts of the audience. Ultimately, the article succeeds in making an urgent and compelling issue both accessible and engaging. Our modern society has become increasingly driven by distraction, technology, and media, and the message on the matter is clear. If we don't take control of our technological habits, we may find that deepening thinking, much like clean air or healthy food, is becoming something obtained by very few people.

Works Cited

Harrington, Mary. "Opinion | Thinking Is Becoming a Luxury Good." The New York Times, 28 July 2025,

www.nytimes.com/2025/07/28/opinion/smartphones-literacy-inequality-democracy.html.