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Final Reflection Essay

Over the course of this semester, I have developed a better understanding when it comes to science, technology, and literature. I realised all these concepts were more connected than I originally thought. At the beginning, before I took this course, I saw technology mostly as the accumulation of human innovation over time. Through the course activities, I started to see technology and literature as things that shape identity, attention, creativity, and the choices that people make.

This class and the activities that we went through were a lot of fun, and I enjoyed the structure and flexibility that this course offered. Especially with the recent example of Canvas shutting down. The online website was still up, and it allowed me to work on my stuff for this class while the outage was happening, which was nice. Everything being in one spot was very straightforward, and I liked seeing the portfolio submission form since it showed a checklist of everyone's work. It gave me a rough idea of how everyone else was doing in the class, and that was appreciated. The weekly emails helped keep us on track and as a reminder that assignments were due.

At the beginning of the semester, when I completed my introduction video, I described technology as humanity's innovations building over time. It started from the Stone Age and eventually transitioned into the modern world we live in today. By the end of the course, I would say that it is still a solid definition. The technology definition activity that I did later on helped me elaborate on this more, and it got me to think more deeply about the development of technology over time. Especially after seeing the timeline, it showed that technological growth started accelerating exponentially; we only started to create more complex technology in the past couple of thousand years.

This feels even more true today. The internet has been around for a little over 40 years now, and in that time, we went from basic, huge, expensive computers to everyone carrying a tiny but much more powerful computer in their pockets every day. I often heard about Moore's law in the past, and I think it could apply to this topic. This law is essentially the observation that the number of transistors doubles every two years. This has been surprisingly consistent and linear. Even today, this same law applies, and this alone helps support my argument that technology builds on top of itself over time.

In my midterm reflection and AI activity assignments, I wrote about how new technology is exciting, but we need to be cautious, especially when it comes to AI. Right now, there is an AI race to see who can develop AGI first between major tech companies around the globe. AGI stands for Artificial General Intelligence, and it essentially means that the AI model can comprehend at a human or even greater level. This is exciting because of the new technology that could be created, such as medicine or more efficient systems that help humanity overall. My only fear with AGI is how quickly we are progressing; it seems like the rate at which AI is improving is currently outpacing us, and we are already seeing the effect of this today. There are

so many fake AI videos out there, and it's been absolutely troublesome for the education system. Systems we have in place now are clearly struggling with the development already, so I can only imagine what might happen if an improperly tested AI system were created. If it's smarter than humans, theoretically, it could also outsmart and lie to us for its own goals. This is obviously a scenario that we do not want to be in, so it's best, in my opinion, to slow down and make sure the technology is safe and beneficial.

If I had to pick an assignment to be my favorite, it would have to be the Twine Story Activity. Being a game development major, it all came fairly naturally to me, and it was not very difficult to get it together. It's essentially a way to create a story with narrative choices that branch off, and you can do a lot of cool things with this. I decided to make my story relevant to something I personally struggled with, and that's procrastination. It's something that a lot of people could relate to, and it was fun setting up that plotline. It's simple but effective, I would say.

The Literature and Identity assignment was also one of my favorite activities since I got to write about one of my favorite franchises in fiction. The story and the themes it presents are so good, and even if it's a comic, it has earned the right to be taken seriously as literature. The peer reviews that we did helped get valuable feedback, and it made me feel good to see people enjoy my work and suggest improvements. It was also interesting to see someone else's take on the same assignment.

Creating a page on my website was one of my favorite things to do for this class. Earlier this year, I designed my own website in order to showcase myself for future employment. I recently updated my website since it was out of date for a while, and I thought about this class

and how we could use our own site if we wanted to, instead of Google Drive. Originally, I had kept my portfolio updated on there, but the presentation seemed a little bland, and I knew I could do better. I thought of a creative way to organize all of my work with the use of buttons, and it's all super easy to navigate. I even included multiple options for file types like DOCX and PDF, for example, in case the professor had any trouble with either. It came out looking really great, and I'm glad that I got a portfolio of work that I can be proud of, especially since I was a little behind earlier in the semester, so I couldn't get much instructor feedback.

If I had to recommend anything for this class, I would recommend adding reminder assignments on Canvas for the activities, just so we can see what's due along with the rest of our other classes. We wouldn't turn assignments in on Canvas, but it would just be there to keep us organized with our to-do list. I believe this would help students stay on track and on time with their assignments, as I could see people forgetting to check the class website. Besides that, I don't really have any other suggestions. I thought the class was well-structured and organized well; the schedule was also straightforward and consistent.

Overall, this class helped me realise that technology is more human and meaningful than I originally thought. Technology was shaped by humans, and the emergence of literature was a natural result of technology; both were used as ways for humans to express themselves. Technology overall was the foundation of our civilization. Without it, we would not be so different than other animals on our planet. I believe it speaks to the beauty of human intelligence and cooperation, and how far we have come together.