Art vs. Technology

A Paper by
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Amanda Santangelo, Art vs. Technology
I believe art is what makes the world go around. Art is a creative part of our inner thoughts. Each of us should have a creative and fun side of ourselves, particularly because the world is so serious. Imagine a world without paintings, dance, theater or music? All that would be left would be business, war and politics. Where would we find inspiration to come up with so many creative ideas needed to improve our lives?

My position in this paper is to ask if we are becoming indifferent to innocence, play and creativity through use and over emphasis on cellphones. And are we in the process of losing the honest and healing expressions of the arts?

The other day I saw my nine year-old niece with her expensive iPhone looking up that horrible “MoMo” character, a figure that news reports claim “told children to commit suicide.” I was really frightened to see her playing it. Who wants their nine year-old to have ideas like that in their head? To me this is extremely serious - suicide is not a thing to joke about. What other horrible things might be out on the internet or on the dark web?

The MoMo game’s 50-day challenge was on the internet for children and adolescents. The challenge told them to perform a series of dangerous tasks for 50 days, including violent attacks, self-harm and even suicide. That’s when I started thinking about what my niece should be looking at instead.

It may sound old-fashioned, but I think pre-teen children should have flip cellphones, just for emergencies because those phones don’t have global internet access. Instead of getting pre-teens an expensive phone connected to the World Wide Web, where they can be exposed to many violent videos, they should be exposed to art.

How can pre-teens know what they are looking at? How can they know if it is bad? Pre-teens shouldn’t have access to pages that are highly inappropriate until they are of the age to know what is right and what is wrong. There are a lot of bad websites that they may go on that don’t teach anything useful for life. Children need to put down their cellphones, go outside and explore new and interesting places, as well as art.

Children that have cellphones now are being isolated from the world because they don’t pay attention to what is really in front of them. They are basically talking to people who may or may not be who they say they are. But if they are required to put down their phones and start communicating with people around them they might make better connections and find out something great. Youth are not learning a lot compared to what they could learn if they would just put away the phones. Parents, I feel, are the ones responsible for any child’s isolation because by purchasing the latest technology for kids, they get access to dangerous things they are not yet aware of. More children and teenagers from mid-2000 through the late-2010’s experienced serious and psychological distress, major depression or suicidal thoughts. According to the National Institutes of Health, there is increasing evidence that the internet and social media can influence suicide-related behavior. More of these young people attempted suicide, and most of this occurred by them being exposed to horrible things on the internet.

The effects from the internet have a huge impact on teens more than older adults. Children and teens that have cellphones with internet access tend to sleep less because they are on their phones when they should be sleeping. When children or teenagers are on their phones very late in the night they tend to get angry in the morning because they don’t get the sleep
they need. So what parents should do is take the phone away at night or even replace the phone with one that doesn’t have internet access.

I feel art is important to have in our lives because without art we wouldn’t be able to come up with creative solutions or see the world in a creative way. My first introduction to art in the form of music TV and theater was “Barney and Friends.” After watching and listening to that over time, I progressed into to pop music. As I grew up, I was being introduced to music that my sister liked. Since then I’ve developed my own taste and have been listening to my favorite music for years. I really enjoy upbeat music from the 1990’s, particularly boy-bands from the late 1980’s and 90’s – “New Kids on the Block,” and my absolute favorite group of all time to this day, the Backstreet Boys.

The Backstreet Boys’ music makes me feel like I can do anything in life, even when I’m having a hard time. I seem to be in sync with their lyrics and voices. The rhythms they play make me feel sad, sentimental and energized. When things go wrong, I turn on my music and it makes me feel like I’m in a different world, when I’m anxious it relaxes me. OK so I may be one of their most obsessive, number one fans. But the point is creative things like music, art and nature are what keep the world from being a depressing place. I feel that a great time to seek out art is when you get stressed out. Some people find art relaxing because painting, drawing, music, dance and other forms of art is a great way to let your creative mind explore alternatives. I hope this has article has helped you to think about more creative time versus more of the internet.

References

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3477910/

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