

Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking

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Technology: Creating Stronger Connections Than Ever Before

The scene had been set: a dark apartment bedroom, pills scattered across the table, and a young mother lying on the floor. In flashing red lights, the paramedics rushed Jennifer Ward to the hospital. Mrs. Ward had just survived her first medical emergency caused by her chronic breathing condition. But what is truly shocking is who saved her life and how it was done. It was Alyssa Ward, her 7-year-old daughter, that dialed 911 (“7-Year-Old,” 2019). Due to technology and the connection it forms between medical professionals and society, Alyssa was able to save the life of her own mother. Thus, the question arises: does using technology make us more or less connected? Without a doubt, using technology has made us more connected with the medical world by one, allowing emergency contact with physicians and two, increasing the prominence of telehealth.

Primarily, by using technology we are allowed to immediately contact medical professionals for any emergency. In 1998, the number of deaths due to uncontrollable causes increased by a shocking 64% (“Leading Causes,” 1999). The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) explains how over half of the lives lost that year could have survived, if only society during 1998 had widespread access to the technology we have in 2021. We as a society have started to take technology for granted. It is incredible how pressing 3 digits in our phones can be the determining factor between life or death. After we connect with the paramedics, physicians are able to further affirm our safety by utilizing technology as well. Decreasing the response time of emergency medics through geo-location tracking (Maier, 2017), and allowing physicians to quickly share patient information across networks (“What is HIE,” 2020) are only a few forms through which technology saves lives everyday.

Secondly, technology use has emphasized the role of telehealth, which regards receiving medical care through virtual platforms such as Zoom (Torous et al., 2020). This has been especially visible during the past year, with relation to the COVID-19 global pandemic and mental health. According to the Center for American Progress, 84% of mental health facilities across the nation closed their doors due to new distancing regulations. This is an act that could have resulted in over 43.8 million Americans left to struggle with their mental health issues alone (“Mental Health Facts,” 2020). However, many clinicians and patients alike took advantage of the technology at their fingertips, and for the first time, are utilizing this unfamiliar tool to connect in a time when face-to-face visits are nearly impossible. In our status quo, the world expects us to fall to our knees – weakened by mandatory restrictions and regulations. However, by the use of technology we have proven that our society has become more connected than ever before.

After Jennifer Ward recovered in the emergency room, she stated that “you grow up and think your parents are your heroes. Now that I get to call my 7-year-old my hero... it’s an amazing feeling.” One day, we ourselves may walk into a scene similar to that of Jennifer Ward’s: a dark apartment bedroom, pills scattered across the table, and the sight of a helpless, desperate mother. One day, this scene will remind us of her 7-year-old daughter’s heroic actions – actions that were declared successful after she used her mother’s phone to connect with a medical professional. But in order to be prepared for that day, we must further strengthen our bridges built on technological advancements. It is only then that our connections will be more reliable, our medical treatments will be more effective, and our overall health will be guaranteed to flourish.

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