Part 1: My Interest

Ever since 3rd grade, I have been an avid football fan. I fell in love with the sport after watching the Colts beat the Bears in Super Bowl XLI and realizing that it was an extremely entertaining sport to watch. I became a fan of the Minnesota Vikings because I had a Vikings jersey in my closet as a souvenir from a vacation to Minnesota a few years prior. My dad wanted me to become a Bears fan like him but I decided that I did not want to be a Bears fan since I had just seen them lose in the only game of football I had watched. Over the past decade of watching football, my love for the game grew exponentially to the point where I began to play football for my middle school team in 7th grade. Playing football helped grow my understanding of concepts in football. After playing for 5 years, I decided to not play football my senior year of high school because my junior year I missed the whole season because of a concussion and I was concerned about suffering another concussion. Today, I would almost consider myself an expert on most things football related.

Technology in football has evolved greatly over the past century that the NFL has been around. Early technology in the NFL consisted of putting one-way radios in the helmet of the quarterback to send in a play call on offense rather than substituting in a player every play to have that player relay the play to the QB. This innovation allowed for teams to spend less time waiting around before plays. Teams used to typically send wide receivers or running backs in to give the QB the play since they were the fastest players on the offense. More modern technology was introduced in 2014 in the form of using tablets on the sidelines so that the coaches and players can watch plays that had happened on the earlier drive (“Balancing Technology with Tradition”). Previously, the NFL only allowed for teams to use photographs of plays. This was not very effective because these pictures typically only showed pre-snap alignments by the plays. For example, an offensive coordinator would show a QB the picture of the defensive alignment (a nickel defense will be used for this example which consists of 4 defensive
lineman, 2 linebackers, and 5 defensive backs) and talk with each other about what they read on the
defense before the snap. This would cause for some confusion since the coordinator and the QB have
different angles of the play so they might see different things. Having a photograph of the play only
allowed for the staff and the players to see so much of a play. With the introduction of tablets to the
sidelines, coaches are able to break down the full play to the plays and explain how that play could have
gone differently and what to do better next time. For example, in the previous example of a nickel
defense, the 5th defensive back could have been aligned for coverage at the time of the picture being
taken but moved into a blitzing position just before the snap. Having tablets allow for coaches to see this
and relay adjustments to their player in order to increase their chances of victory. The tablets have had
a great impact on the game of football. It has allowed for coaches to make better adjustments to what
opposing teams are doing allowing for a more refined game of football that is more enjoyable for fans
like myself to watch. The only possible negative for these tablets would be malfunctions that would
render them unusable. Other than that, there are no drawbacks to the NFL utilizing this technology to its
full extent.

Overall, I believe that the implementation of new technology in football has been nothing but
beneficial thus far. In the future, I believe that the advancement in technology will only make football
better. However, I do not think that there is much room for improvement on this particular technology
in football since displaying film is the most that the tablets will be allowed to do. Perhaps technology like
robotic referees could remove human officiating errors from the game and reduce the amount of
incorrect calls drastically.
Star Wars: The Clone Wars Season 1 Episode 5 “Rookies”

Star Wars: The Clone Wars takes place between episodes 2 and 3 in the Star Wars saga and focuses heavily on what happens during the clone wars. This particular episode revolves around a group of newly placed clone troopers guarding a republic outpost on the Rishi moon. It was imperative that the troopers did not lose the outpost to separatist forces because without the outpost, the nearby cloning facility on Kamino would not know if any Separatist forces were making a surprise attack. Separatist droid General Grievous had planned for a surprise attack on Kamino led by Sith assassin Asajj Ventress so Grievous sent a battalion of commando droids to take out the clones on the outpost and jam communication of the clones to the Jedi so that they would not have any backup. There were around 10 clones on the outpost before the droids attacked. However, the droid commandos took the clones by surprise and took the base and killing most of the clones. Only four clones remained: Heavy, Echo, Fives, and Cutup. Once the clones escaped the base, Cutup was eaten by a Rishi Eel and was not seen again. Luckily for the clones, the Rishi outpost was scheduled for inspection that day so fellow clones Captain Rex and Commander Cody were en route to the moon to provide backup although they were not aware that the base had been taken over yet. When the two clones arrived on the outpost, they were greeted by an attack by the droids who had taken over the base. The two clone leaders were forced to retreat and they met up with the four new troopers who had survived the attack. The five clones formulated a plan to infiltrate the base and were able to successfully restore communications with the republic by sneaking into the base and taking out the droids. Unfortunately, heavy died in a sacrifice to allow for the other clones to enter the base. Once communications had been restored and reinforcements had been deployed to the base, the four clones returned to the republic flagship.
In this episode the most pivotal piece of technology is the radios used to communicate with the republic. This technology is very readily available to people both in the show and in real life. In the show, nearly every character has a radio communicator on their wrist that allows them to communicate with anyone on their channel with the push of a button. In real life, it is easy for anyone to find a radio at a store like best buy or amazon for a low price. The radio is able to solve many problems in the clone wars. For example, in this episode of the show, it was able to help prevent Kamino from being invaded by separatist forces. In real life, radios are able to solve problems in situations like when a police officer uses his radio to call for backup in dangerous situations. These radios can in avertedly cause problems in this situation when the backup that was radioed for help ends up causing more problems than solutions. These radios have a very large effect on characters in the show because without these radios, there would not be communication between different groups of clone battalions. Without this communication, the republic would not be able to coordinate their attacks against the separatist forces to “win” the war. Radios also have a profound affect on peoples lives because these radios allow for people to quickly pass information to others who are not near them. Radios are one of the most ethical technologies that there are because of the fact that they do not cause harm to others with the way that they are designed to work. However, they can harm people if someone uses physically hits someone else with a radio, but that is the fault of the user rather than the technology. In the next 5-10 years, radios may be phased out of use by technology like smart phones. Smart phones have many more practical uses than radios. Radios can only be used to speak with others while smart phones have thousands of uses that benefit society.
Overall, radios are an extremely beneficial piece of technology that has many uses in today's world. As shown in Star Wars: The Clone Wars, it is very useful in military scenarios to relay information. In real life, they are very helpful, but they may be phased out in favor of more advanced technology in the future.
Works Cited

Part 1


Part 2