Part 1-My Interests

Technology is changing how we live our lives more and more each day. It plays a huge role in our everyday hobbies and interests by making them easier, faster, better, more convenient, etc. There are many interests I have that have been changed by technology, but the first that came to mind was the game of tennis, my favorite sport.

Tennis is a racquet sport played on either hard, grass, or clay court. There is either singles, which is one person playing one other person, or doubles, which is two against two. The scoring is similar to volleyball, but a little more complex because there are games in a set, and sets in a match. Opponents switch off serving every game, and switch sides of the court every other game. Balls are called in or out by the person receiving them, so basically your opponent is the line judge. In higher level play, there are professional line judges to ensure there isn’t any cheating or bad calls. These are just a few of the basic rules or guidelines of tennis.

I have been playing tennis for as long as I can remember. I grew up right across the street from tennis courts, and my parents taught me how to play when I was really young, probably 5 or 6. I immediately fell in love with the game. It really appealed to me as I got older and tried other sports because I realized I didn’t really enjoy relying on teammates in a game (soccer, volleyball, etc.), but I still liked being a part of the team. Tennis is the perfect mix because you’re still on a team, but you compete individually, or in doubles with only one other person. I personally enjoy singles because I don’t like relying on another person or feeling bad for messing up in a match. My family is the main reason why I
love tennis so much though because both my parents and my brother play and its an activity we love doing together.

Technology has greatly improved and revolutionized the sport of tennis in many ways. First of all, the racquets we use today are extremely different from what past decades had to play with. Many years ago, players used wooden racquets which were heavier and harder to use due to the small head size. Sam Laird states in his article *How Technology Has Revolutionized Tennis*, “Rackets today are made from high-tech composite frames, which evolved from metal frames, which came from wood frames” (Laird 1). These new “high-tech” racquets have sped up the pace of tennis (made players able to swing the racquet faster and hit the ball harder) and have increased players skill level.

Another way technology has drastically changed tennis is the use of radar guns, ball tracking technology, and net sensors. These are primarily focused at higher level tennis, like professional, or sometimes college level. An example of higher level tennis is Wimbledon or the Australian Open, which are two well-known tournaments in professional tennis. Radar guns are a cool feature technology has implemented on tennis because it allows players and fans to see how fast the ball is traveling. The information is usually presented on the big screen after the speed is calculated. Ball tracking technology is a huge benefit in tennis as well. As I mentioned before, players call their opponents balls in or out, and in higher level tennis there are line judges to assist in calling the balls. However, even with line judges, mistakes are still going to be made. Ball tracking technology is an important part of the game now because players can challenge their opponents or the line judges call by asking to see the zoomed in replay. This has prevented bad line calls, and ensures that the truly better player will win based on their skill rather than bad line calls being made. Net cord sensors are good for a few things. One is calling lets. A Let is a term in tennis for when the ball hits the net, but still goes over and in the correct box on a serve. When this happens, a Let is called, and the server gets to hit a “redo” serve. The sensor can pick up if a ball barely touches the net. Another rule in tennis is you can’t touch the net with your racquet or
body in the middle of a point, or else you lose the point. The net sensor comes in handy when there are disputes whether a player touched the net or not (Snelling).

In conclusion, tennis has been revolutionized by technology in many ways. Technology has made it easier and better for players to have fair and efficient matches and has truly benefited the game. Even though most of these technological improvements are only for professional tennis, it has improved my experience as a tennis fan being able to watch the cool features on TV and they continue to amaze me every day.

Part 2- In the Media

Technology in TV shows or movies is usually unbelievable, but most times unrealistic. I have seen many TV shows and though “wow could that actually work”, and more times than not, the answer is no... or not yet.

One of the shows that never fails to amaze me is Grey’s Anatomy. The medical technology used in that show is incredible, even groundbreaking, and it seems so realistic. However, I have spent many minutes on Google looking up if this technology is a thing in real life and usually the answer is no. The show is about a group of surgeons that all work at the same hospital, through the narration of the main character Meredith Grey. Meredith starts out as an intern at the prestigious Seattle Grace Hospital, and later turns into one of the top surgeons there over the duration of the show.

In Season 10 Episode 22 of Greys Anatomy, Meredith’s coworker and best friend Christina Yang gets a hold of a 3D printer and print a “portal vein” for her patient. After seeing this breakthrough in technology work in the episode, Meredith tries something similar to help her patient. She attempts to print a heart using the same 3D printer. In the show, they were able to design this heart using some computer application and make it so it would fit the patient perfectly and act as a real, functioning heart, which is obviously impossible in real life.
This technology is not in existence in real life, but there are similar things that are in existence. There is such thing as 3D printing as most people know, however the functional part of a real beating heart coming from a printer is made up. There is 3D printing for implants, casts, prosthetic parts, bones, and the list goes on and on. There are currently models being made and experimented with that come close to the idea of 3D printing functioning organs. There is a heart valve that was made using a 3D printer that replicates the original valve and is in the process of being tested on sheep (The Ultimate List...).

If this technology were to be made, it would solve many of the medical problems in the world. Instead of being put on waitlist for organs, having access to a 3D printer that could replace said organs would be a technological breakthrough in the medical field.

This technology affected the lives of the characters in the show by allowing them to save and help more people. However, it made things more complex for the surgeons because rather than being handed a donor heart to transplant into the patient, they had to create one from scratch on the computer to save the victims life.

In my opinion, this technology is very ethical because it would only help people. The only downside I could potentially see is malfunctions in the body from having a fake organ. If all things went smoothly though, I think this could be a great addition to the medical technology.

Overall, the use of 3D printing in Grey’s Anatomy would be a great technology to have in real life. It isn’t realistic now, but scientists are getting closer every day to figuring this technology out.
Works Cited
