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Midterm Paper – Part 1

One of my personal interests includes dancing. I have been dancing since the age of seven and it has become a passion of mine. I specifically learned an Indian classical dance known as Bharatanatyam. This dance form is an ancient traditional art form that originated from the temples of southern India. I got drawn to this classical art form because of my mom. When my mother was younger she was unable to learn due to financial reasons so she wished for my sisters and I to be given the opportunity that she wasn’t. I really enjoyed it because it was a great way for me to bond with my sisters and learn about my culture through the form of art. Due to my interest of dance, I decided to write this paper about how technology has impacted and changed dance.

Technology is everywhere now and has changed the way of life. It has even impacted dance in positive and negative ways. According to an article by Texas Woman’s University, technology has changed the way people are “able to learn and teach dance” (Zihao Li). Some dance students are now required to take courses such as graphic design along with the traditional dance courses. Furthermore, the school has built a cyber platform for dancers to connect with other dancers as well as share and create their work. Technology allows students to learn dance from all over the world via computer. However, some students complained that their computers were not equipped with the programs they needed for the class such as Flash Player, iTunes, and QuickTime Player. Overall, technology has impacted dance and has made learning different art forms easier for people all over the world. In the
future, dancers will be more knowledgeable due to the information they now have access to because of technology.

Some people believe that technology has no right to impact dance. According to the Dance Informa Magazine the audience and the dancers believe that during a dance performance, the only “technology of interest is the technology of the dancer's body” (Elizabeth Ashley). These individuals believe that the dancer and the artistic message are the only things one should focus on. However, it is difficult in this day of age for technology to not have an impact on dance as it has impacted every aspect of peoples' lives.

Dance and technology are related to Informatics since informatics is defined as applying technology to a certain field of study. In this case, we are applying technology to dance. I believe that dance and the arts have been positively impacted with the use of technology. For example, when attending a Beyoncé concert, one can still see her from seats miles away due to the large screens placed with multiple cameras capturing her every move. The crowd is constantly entertained with the flashing lights and projection of pictures and/or videos. Furthermore, technology has impacted the way dance is communicated. As mentioned in the lecture slides about Real and Digital, people can watch dance the traditional way in the “real world” and watch it live (Lecture Realdigital). Nowadays you could watch a dance performance in the digital world and watch a video of the performance on a device. A current new trend is watching live streams of performances. Choreographers and dancers can post videos of their new dance moves on social media and on the Internet and claim ownership as mentioned in the lecture slides about Ethics (Lecture Ethics). For example, the dougie, ju ju on the beat, and cupid shuffle are all dance moves that have been learned by people all over the world due to the power of technology.

I believe technology has helped dance and the arts become even more entertaining to watch. With the effects of lights and display of pictures/videos during the performance, the audience is more
engaged and able to understand the story the dance is trying to portray. Individuals from all over the world are able to watch a performance you could have had in a small town of Kentucky. The power of technology is unreal and has changed the way one can watch, do and learn dance. Dance will continue to change as technology continues to grow and develop in greater ways.

Midterm Paper – Part 2 (Stranger Things, Episode 2- The Weirdo on Maple Street)

“Stranger Things” has become Netflix’s latest smash hit and it is all anyone can talk about. The first season of the show is set in the 1980s and is about a boy (Will Byers) who disappears and leads to a chain of events throughout the small town of Hawkins, Indiana. Some kind of monster has escaped and is killing whoever gets in its way. A group of young boys (Dustin, Mike, and Lucas) who are friends with Will go on the hunt to find their missing friend. In episode two, the boys bring the girl they found in the woods (Eleven) back to Mike’s house. The boys realize that Eleven has special powers and decide to hide her from everyone. The boys also learn that Eleven is hiding from “bad people” since they are after her and she has ran away from the Hawkins Laboratory. Will’s mother (Joyce) receives another stranger call and believes it’s her missing son. After the call the “lights got nuts and the walls start to warp” (Jethro Nededog). Later in the episode the monster claims another victim. Mike’s older sister, Nancy, is at a pool party at her boyfriend’s (Steven) house and the monster takes Nancy’s best friend, Barb. Meanwhile, Will’s brother (Jonathan) is taking pictures in the woods and finds them all having fun by the pool.

As the season is set in the 1980s, the boys are seen communicating to each other via walkie-talkies throughout the episode. The walkie-talkies are still available in the real world and the show as well. They are usually relatively cheap and easy to get a hold of. It isn’t as common to use for everyday use but some people are seen using it at their specific field of work. Police officers, military, warehouse staff, hotel staff, etc often are seen benefiting from these two-way radios.
In general, a wide variety of businesses benefit from using walkie-talkies. They are a great way to “enhance businesses’ health and safety practices” (Council of Communication Associations). With the use of this technology, people will notice a well-run business and management would run smoothly. Hotel staff, workers in construction or security would all benefit from this kind of technology. All the members of the staff would be on the same page since they are all being communicated the news at the same time via the device. Walkie-talkies are also useful for people in rural areas since there often are “cellular dead spots where cell phones do not work” (Council of Communication Associations). In the show, the boys use them to communicate to one another when they are apart. It is a great and quick way to let each other know when there is danger near or to inform each other on the latest news about Will. Without the walkie-talkies the boys would be unable to talk to each other and let each other know of their plans/upcoming news.

In my opinion, this technology is ethical as it is just a simpler form of a cell phone. I think it could be used unethically if you could get interferences of another walkie-talkie device/radio and overheard a serious or private conversation. In 5 to 10 years, I don’t think there would be much need for walkie-talkies as there will most likely be an easier and quicker form of communication. They may become smaller and be a device you just place on your ear instead of being hand-held devices. Its amazing to see that technology that was in the 80s is still used today.
Works Cited


