

CS 4001 – Extra Credit Homework Assignment: Go Without "modern" Entertainment Technology

Related Article:

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Attempt to live for 3 consecutive days without "modern" entertainment technology. Keep a journal and record your observations and the changes to your lifestyle. At the end of the assignment, reflect on your experience and how you react to the lack of entertainment technology. Your finished paper will probably be about 4-5 pages in length.

"Outlawed" technology:

- MP3 players, portable CD players, mobile audio devices
- TV
- DVDs, VHS players
- Cellphones
- Computers for entertainment purposes (online gaming, IMing, surfing, etc.)
- Video game consoles or portable game systems

Approved technology:

- Going to the movies
- Radio
- Landlines

You may use any technology necessary for work or school purposes. Just don't use them for entertainment purposes. For example: typing your term paper on the computer is ok, but flipping up a new tab and browsing online comics isn't (unless it relates to work you are doing). Along this line, calling your boss from your cellphone is ok, but don't call a friend and talk for 2 hours because you're bored. You may check your email daily to read class/work related emails, just skip the ones not related to work or school.

You are not graded on whether you succeed at eliminating modern entertainment technologies from your life. You're graded on whether or not you make an honest effort at the assignment and how well you chronicle your experiences.

You will want to do some pre-planning for this assignment. Consider hosting a board game night with friends. Go to the library and stock up on novels. Spend some quality time working on classwork or reading your textbooks. (Hint: Term Paper Writing!) Tell your parents you won't be checking in everyday for 3 days. You may need to start wearing a watch to replace the clock on your cell phone.

Whatever you do, do NOT jeopardize your health or safety for this assignment. (Microwaves to eat are OK!)

I do not expect perfect writing, as this assignment includes your personal thoughts and experiences. While this assignment is more free-form than others, I still expect it to be coherent, logical, and engaging. Submit your work in PDF. No late assignments accepted.