

Chapter 19

Technology

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. How would you define technology?
2. Why has technology become a major factor in American life?
3. How has technology affected you-positively or negatively-in each of these areas: expanded choices, expanded abilities, lifestyle changes, and amount of free time?
4. Do you think technology is neutral? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree with Newberry that engineers tend to be “proximate instrumentalists”? Why?
6. When does technology appear to be a threat?
7. To what extent does technology make everything into an object or a machine and a means to an end? How?
8. Is it ethical to use medical brain imaging tools to evaluate the effectiveness of advertising? Why?
9. When have you experienced unexpected consequences from a specific design or an item of technology?
10. What do you see as the major potential danger of technology?
11. What (specific) positive and negative contributions has technology had in your life?
12. What steps can we take to maximize the good and minimize the destructive aspects or influences of technology?