

Technology's Touch on Simplifying a Student's Life

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Course: English 101

Instructor: Ms. Ramona Cutrer

Essay Type: Example/Illustration

One of my first thoughts about going back to school, after sitting out for so long, was whether I could do my best now that I have a family. There are so many things for a responsible mother and wife to take care of, much less adding another responsibility. How was I going to do it all and maintain a high GPA? The transition from working full time to being a full-time student has been tough, but today's advanced technology has definitely made it easier.

For instance, when I researched acceptance criteria for my colleges of interest, I found all of the information online. Each school had their own website with information for acceptance, as well as interest concerns. I was able to fill out my application, check on my status, and review important dates from my home office with the click of a mouse. I was even able to sign up for my classes and make changes online!

As soon as I started with my first class, I knew prioritizing my time was going to be the key to my success. I spend so much time either in class, at work, or taking care of household chores, there's not much time to even take care of my family's shopping needs. Technology steps in once again by allowing me to "window shop" right from my desktop. I can compare cars, clothes, even the essentials without ever leaving the house. This allows me to spend less time in a store grumbling over the pros and cons of an item so I can go in to the store, get what I need, and get on with my day.

Transportation has also been improved by technology. Emissions control helps to improve our air quality and fuel economy helps to improve my financial well-being. All the

while, on board global positioning systems allow tracking and location of any vehicle so equipped. I can also have directions and emergency response information provided to me through this wonderful device. I can even have my doors unlocked from a remote location via satellite. Of course, most working college students cannot afford such an elaborately loaded vehicle, but given the time, advanced technology will make even this item affordable.

Because I have so many obligations, communication with my family, friends, and even my employer, is essential. Before technology's touch on communication, I would have sat down with a feather pen, ink well, and paper, written a letter, and mailed it off by Pony Express. Now I can pick up my handy-dandy, satellite tracked, mini computer I call a cell phone and connect with almost anyone, anytime. Or, I can go to the nearest computer and quickly peck out an e-mail to a friend, only to receive a response before I've had a chance to log out of the program. These types of advanced communication keep me in touch, even when I feel like there's just no time left for the quick "I love you" that lets my honey know I'm still thinking of him.

Being a mother, wife, employee, and now student, time can slip by feeling like I've accomplished next to nothing. Today's advanced technology has helped me to stay on track and manage my time more efficiently. I don't have to worry as much about my daily commute, my next trip to the mall with my daughter, standing in line to register for next semester's classes, or calling to check in when I'm running a little late. Instead, I can concentrate on studying, working hard, and making the most of the quality time I have with the ones I love. Thanks goes to all of those with the capacity to make such elaborate systems work so efficiently. Students like me couldn't do all of this without it.

Melaina Pirie is an Athletic Training major.

Ms. Cutrer's Comments: *Melaina was a non-traditional student returning to college. She mentions this in her paper. Students were to take a concept and illustrate its usefulness of lack of in their everyday lives. Melaina did an excellent job with this topic.*