

# PAPER # 1 GUIDE

Richard Restak, a neurology professor at George Washington Hospital University, says “today’s technology has made it possible to reach from one end of the world to another and wipe out differences in time, space, and place.” However, one might argue that these modern advancements come at a cost. For example, society has become so accustomed to having technology available, that many people no longer partake in meaningful conversation at the dinner table. What kind of world is it when people no longer speak to one another? **While technology offers many advantages to today’s society, it also harms the ways in which people communicate and learn.** Furthermore, technology has harmed people’s rights to privacy.

Comment: This is called **THE HOOK**

Comment: This is called **THE THESIS**.  
Each colored word is sub point of the thesis.

## THE HOOK

You must begin your opening paragraph with a hook. For this paper, you have three sources that you can use quotations from:

- 1) Richard Restak’s “Attention Deficit: The Brain Syndrome of Our Era”
- 2) *Frontline: Digital Nation*

Be sure that you name the person you are quoting and giving them authority when you quote. For example, a hook from *Frontline: Digital Nation* might read: Sherry Turkle, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says, “There are just some things that are not amenable to being thought about in conjunction with 15 other things.”

There are several experts in both Restak’s essay and *Frontline: Digital Nation* that you can use for your hook. A transcript for *Frontline Digital Nation* is available at the following link: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/digitalnation/etc/script.html>

## THE THESIS

The thesis offers a minimum of three sub-points that the paper will explore. I have color coded the three points of the thesis for you in the following: **While technology has brought many beneficial changes to today’s society, it has also harmed the ways in which people communicate and learn. Furthermore, technology has harmed people’s right to privacy.**

## THE BODY

On the next page, let’s take a look at the structure of this paper and carefully examine the color-coded topic sentences. Notice how each topic sentence in the body of the paper revisits one of the sub-points in the opening paragraph. Also, the topic sentences are engaging the writing prompt and explaining how modern technology has changed contemporary society.

**Paragraph # 1)** The opening paragraph with the thesis: *While technology has brought many beneficial changes to today's society, it has also harmed the ways in which people **communicate** and **learn**. Furthermore, technology has harmed people's **right to privacy**.*

**Paragraph # 2)** With so many distractions at hand, from computers to smart phones, **technology has changed the way that people** communicate with one another.

**Paragraph # 3)** Because people in contemporary society are so distracted with their **technology, it has damaged their ability to learn**.

**Paragraph # 4)** Furthermore, **modern technology has violated people's right to privacy**.

**Paragraph # 5)** Conclusion

**REMEMBER THAT PARAGRAPHS SHOULD BE BETWEEN 4-8 SENTENCES LONG**

**BELOW WORD COUNT? HELPFUL TIP:** Should you not make it to 750 words in five paragraphs—which is highly likely—then you may have to add another point to your thesis. You can also split one of your points between two paragraphs. For example, if you were to write about the way technology is changing how we **communicate** with one another, one paragraph may focus on how abbreviated text language is hurting our ability to **communicate** in writing. Another paragraph might explore how our cell phones cause a distraction that hurts our ability to **communicate** with one another face to face. Both paragraphs, then, are focusing on a different part of your **communication** argument.

## **EVIDENCE**

For this paper, you are **only** using three sources for your quotes. You will have significant points deducted from your grade for using any resources other than the following three:

- Richard Restak's *Attention Deficit: The Brain Syndrome of Our Era*
- The Me, Me, Me, Generation by Joel Stein.
- *Frontline: Digital Nation*.

# QUOTING EVIDENCE

- You must have at least three quotations from experts to corroborate your arguments
- **According to MLA, quotes should never run for more than four lines of text.**
- In short paper like this you should have between 3-5 quotations (this includes your hook). I would recommend one quote per body paragraph.
- NEVER USE A DROP QUOTE (automatic 10 point deduction). Instead, always attribute the quotation or fuse the quote into your own sentence:

**Incorrect:** “We cannot walk alone.” Martin Luther King Jr. once said this.

**Correct:** Martin Luther King Junior once said, “We cannot walk alone.”

**PERFECT:** Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, once said the following: “The Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow” (558.)

- 1) State the first and last name of the source
- 2) Give the author authority by mentioning his/her credentials (professor, producer, engineer, doctor, etc)
- 3) Give a quote from the source that supports your topic sentence for that paragraph.
- 4) Place the page # where the quote is located in parentheses immediately after the quote (MLA FORMAT).

## MORE EXAMPLES

Richard Restak, a Clinical Professor of Neurology at George Washington Hospital University School of Medicine and Health, believes that, “Technology routinely places us in ambiguous time and place relationships” (340).

**NOTE:** *If you have already mentioned the author, or if you’re able to fuse quotations into your own sentence, then you do not have to mention the author’s credentials. See below:*

Technology provides an excuse for people to try and do multiple activities at the same time and as a result, “one consequence of this change [technological advances] is that we face constant challenges to our ability to focus our attention” (Restak 333).

## CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES

When you're using a quote from *Frontline: Digital Nation*, you'll want to include the director's last name in the parenthetical citation. However, you must also give authority to whoever is saying the quote:

Clifford Nass, a professor at Stanford University, says, "On a college campus, most kids are doing two things at once, maybe three things at once" (Goodman).

## WORKS CITED

An alphabetized list of works cited, which appears at the end of your research paper, gives publication information for each of the sources you have cited in the paper. Include only sources that you have quoted. A paper without a works cited page constitutes plagiarism and will therefore not pass.

For this essay, because you are only using quotations from Restak's essay or *Frontline: Digital Nation*, you will need to include these works in your works cited page. Therefore, I have already done these citations for you. Be sure to copy and paste them into your works cited page and that the top of your works cited page says "Works Cited." When you copy and paste them, be sure that you're adhering to the MLA formatting requirements for works cited pages. If you're confused about the format, please take a look at the following: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/>.

### Works Cited

Goodman, R. D. (Director). (2010). *Digital nation* [Documentary]. USA: PBS Video.

Restak, Richard. *Attention Deficit: The Brain Syndrome of Our Era. Emerging*. United States of America: Barclay Berrios, 2010. 333-345. Print.

Stein, Joel. "The Me, Me, Me Generation." *Time Magazine* 20 May 2013: 26-34. Web.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is defined as "a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work" or "taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own." Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's ideas and PRETEND they are your own. Should you decide to plagiarize on this paper, I will catch you and you will fail the paper. For this course, you should avoid summarizing or paraphrasing other author's ideas unless you are paraphrasing a quote that you've used. I am interested in your own arguments in your own words. Experts that you quote are only used to corroborate your arguments.

## **VOCABULARY**

Use a college level vocabulary. Instead of writing "Nowadays," write "In contemporary society." Use the lexicon associated with technology and some of the more intellectual terms associated with being a millennial. All of you need to increase your vocabulary substantially. While there are several more, some examples of words to use in this paper might include the following.

- digital footprint
- cookies
- Patriot Act
- lobbying
- multitasking
- neurology
- "digital native"
- social networking/ social media
- authentic (or authenticity)
- trending
- hashtag
- transparency
- protocol
- societal
- curriculum
- narcissism (or narcissistic)
- self identity
- virtual reality
- millennial
- hacktivism
- interface