Using a Reading to Choose a Research Topic Worksheet

In this worksheet, we’ll help you come up with some workable research questions about the use of technology in our everyday lives. See also this resource using “stasis theory” as a method to develop your research question.

Read Sherry Turkle’s “Can You Hear Me Now” from Forbes magazine. ([http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2007/0507/176.html](http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2007/0507/176.html)) with the goal to find as many topics as you can from the article.

For example, one of Turkle’s overall questions is: How is technology affecting us? We can use this question as a starting point. Let’s think about each of the terms more deeply and come up with some specifics from the article.

How is Technology Affecting Us?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Affecting (what)</th>
<th>Us</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cell phones</td>
<td>how we communicate</td>
<td>adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lap tops</td>
<td>bullying</td>
<td>adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>texting</td>
<td>romantic relationships</td>
<td>teenagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>online dating</td>
<td>how students do research</td>
<td>children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>social media</td>
<td>how young people develop their</td>
<td>college students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google</td>
<td>independence</td>
<td>high school students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia</td>
<td>how we learn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Technology: (narrow down by type of technology): cell phones, lap tops, texting, online dating, Google, Wikipedia, Facebook, Twitter

Affecting what: how we communicate, bullying, relationships, how students do research, etc.

Us: adults, adolescents, teenagers, children, college students, high school students

Then we make new combinations which are narrower, more specific questions. For example:

- How are cell phones affecting teenager’s development of independence from their parents?
- How are laptops in the classroom affecting how high school students learn?
- How has texting affected teenagers’ romantic relationships?
- How has Google affected how college students do academic research?
- How has social media affected bullying among adolescents?

Following the model we presented above, choose a different question that comes up as you read this article and see how you might narrow it down.
Questions Derived from Turkle:

1. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________