

JDC NEWSLETTER

Respect to gain respect
 Love to receive love
 In order for both to work
 It must come from above.

A flower cannot shine
 Without the sun's rays
 As a human can not love
 Without being praised.

In order for one to rise
 One must try hard
 He will endure pain and suffering
 But will prevail extremely large.

One may make mistakes
 And his life may seem bad
 But if his heart's in the right place
 All his peers appear glad.

Forget about the past
 And look forward to a future
 Where one's opportunities
 are higher than fewer.

JDC Youth

Technology

Technology was the topic for the month of April at the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center. The Positive Peer Leadership Mentoring Program met with a group of young men to discuss what they know about technology, how they use technology, and how technology has affected their lives. To conclude the whole group brainstorming session, the young men split into small groups to write poems to celebrate "Poetry Month."

The poem on the left was written by one of the young men at the session about respect and performing better. Below are other responses and poems about technology written by the young men who reside at JDC.

Brainstorm What You Know / How You Use (or do not use) Technology

"I use technology such as cellphones and computers to socialize and communicate."

"Computers, cameras, showers, chairs, t.v., bikes, cars."

"I use technology daily, using my cellphone when I'm not locked up."

"Phone."

"The only technology we use here is the t.v., but I would love to get more minutes when using the phone."

"Technology is used in many ways to help people. Some can be corrupt."

"I mainly use technology in ways such as communication, consisting of private conversation to social media among the public. I find it more reliable and easier to use."

"I use technology to make phone calls, to research things. Why? To have conversation, to find out what I need to now."

"I know how to use the phone, flat screen, x-box 360."

"We use technology by using computers, cell phones game systems, t.v.'s and so on."

"I use technology to get online. I use it because it is fun."

"I use technology to get with girls and learn new things."

"On the outside, I use computers and ipads, either to look up something I am interested in or for music."

Question what you know: How much access do you have to technology (total, partial none)? Why or why not?

"At this moment I have no use because I'm in jail."

"I feel that I have total access to technology as long as I have the money to pay for the equipment needed to my desire."

"I think we have total access to technology, but in jail the technology we get to use in very minimum."

"None."

"None, because I am locked up."

"Partial."

"I have total access on the outside, technology is all over. In jail, there is nothing but the phone and the t.v."

"We have partial because we use the phone and the t.v. We have a game room, but it's out of use."

"I have access to technology in the outs daily using my cellphone and computer."

"None."

"I have a lot of access to technology like phones and computers."

"Partial, I have phones and some computer."

Reflect on your life story: How has technology affected (or not affected) your life? Explain.

"Video games affected me."

"Ever since technology was made, obesity took over. Half the world is out of shape. You see less people in the gym."

"None, because we are getting punished."

"Yes, technology has affected my life, because before, job applications weren't able to be completed online. Now they are."

"It has affected my life by making me lazy."

"Technology has affected my life in good and bad ways. One good way is it helped time consuming problem and made things easier, but on the contrary, it makes the people lazy."

"It affected my life a lil bit because I was seeing too much on t.v., computer, and letting it become real and life."

"It has been a great [influence] in my life."

"Technology has affected my life in many ways because without it, you couldn't do most things."

"Technology has affected my life a lot because without certain technology, lots of people wouldn't be able to survive."

"Cause we getting bored."

"I have learned a lot of things and met a lot of people."

"A cellphone is always in your hand like it is hand cuffed to you. You can communicate with the world that way."

Rethink your life story: How would your life be different if you had access to technology? Explain.

“My life would be different if I had total access to technology because it is much easier to work with.”

“My life would be totally different because we would be glued to whatever we have and would lose focus on what’s really important.”

“It would be the same.”

“In jail, I wouldn’t be that bored. On the outside, I do have total access.”

“It would be different because I would be lazy.”

“I wouldn’t be as bored as I am in jail.”

If I had complete access to technology, I believe that I could use it to make my own softwares and inventions and use it to my benefit to become successful.”

“You would be seeing what you you’re missing out on the outside world.”

Share positive peer advice: How does technology impact society? How would you help society be different if you had total access to technology?

“Video chatting, social networks, camera phones.”

“Technology impacts society by making people’s lives easier.”

“In every single way because we are always connected.”

“Lots of killings, gangs, kidnapping, all types of ways. Positive and good. Taking all the negative things away from life.”

“By making things easier.”

“Without technology, the world will go crazy,

people wouldn’t communicate as much, we would need to get message owls. Or send letters through the mail.”

“It impacts society by helping out with cameras.”

“In every single way, because we are always connected.”

“Technology impacts society from social media to surveillance to help stopping crimes and everyday tools to make life easier. I would use it to help the people in the areas I feel we need the most help in.”

“It impacts society in a major way because people are more focused on everything else but what needs to get done.”

Kimberly Bryant founded San Francisco-based Black Girls Code in 2011 to help close the digital divide for girls of color. So far, the nonprofit organization has trained more than 1,500 girls to work in technology fields such as robotics, video game design, mobile phone application development and computer programming.

This past July, Bryant, a biotechnology and engineering professional, was one of 11 people to receive the White House Champions of Change for Tech Inclusion award. The award is given to celebrate people in the U.S. “who are doing extraordinary things to expand technology opportunities for young learners—especially minorities, women and girls, and others from communities historically under-served or under-represented in tech fields,” according to whitehouse.gov.

-Atlantablackstar.com, 10 young black innovators you should know, October 14, 2013.



Illustrate Your Thinking

¹You use technology to reach out to family or friends, videochatting with the important people you know. It has affected my life a lot because we won't really have to think. We could just reach out to technology.

²I use technology on the daily. Without it, I believe society would be completely different and communication wouldn't be as easy without it. Technology has advanced us a lot and we are affected by it daily. Technology is also one of the main sources of entertainment. Without it, there wouldn't be T.V. shows or Netflix or internet. We would still be stuck in those acting theaters.

³Technology is life
It's how we operate
It's the reason kids and tv's don't separate
DJJ life is full of technology
Cameras, tv's, phones
It's dangerous
It can get you in deep trouble.

Without my phone, I can't do life here
Cause I can't call my girlfriend
Can't call my friend
And I would like 30 minute calls.

My life sucks without my phone
Cuz I can't talk to my friends
I feel like I don't have anything to do
One good thing to [change] here is to add 30 minute calls.

⁶We use it everyday,
It gets better by time.
People use it in everyway,
Life without it is like
A sun without it rays.
Before it was just to
Survive, now it has taken
Over like the water on the bay.

⁷I use a computer, I can't afford a tutor
I use facebook, because I forgot my notebook
Spell check has my vocabulary wreck[ed]
I don't have a phone
This place makes me feel so alone.

⁸I use technology to get on facebook.
I use my phone to text and call people.
I use my camera to take pictures.
I use a t.v. for entertainment.



Tina Wells

Tina Wells is the founder and CEO of Buzz Marketing Group, a full-service marketing and research company specializing in helping companies make connections with youth markets. She founded the company when she was just a teenager and has since grown Buzz Marketing into one of the leading

agencies focused on teen audiences. Her clients have included Proctor & Gamble, Verizon, Time Inc., Sony BMG, and PBS. She was recently named one of Fast Company's "Most Creative People of 2013" and has been recognized on Inc. Magazine's "Top 30 Entrepreneurs Under 30". -tech.co, 9 of the most successful young entrepreneurs, September 4, 2013

⁹A cell phone is a big part of people's lives, everyone has one.

And when you lose it, you go through a phase.

Some people fall under depression.

Others go and spend all their money just because they can't live without one.

Technology is the way people contact each other.

It's how they know what goes on in the world.

It's how the army launches their missiles and how they know how to guide them.

If people didn't have technology, we would have to write letters and have the mail man send them.

It would take longer for a faster reply.

Nowadays, a text message is all you have to send to get your response.

White girls would stress without their iphones.

Delivery service would have a hard time selling their products.

If technology wasn't around, what would you do?

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