

(Draft of reflective essay)

Internet

I am six years old, wide eyed staring at the small black screen in front of me. My feet dangle down from the chair, unable to touch the ground while I patiently wait for the computer to start, which felt like an eternity. Multiple noises sounded from the computer tower, which meant the computer was trying to turn on. I was going on the computer so that I could play my educational and typing games on the Internet. I did almost everyday, but I was only allowed thirty minutes because my mom said I had to get my homework done and do chores around the house before I went to bed. In my house the Internet was a privilege like television or video games. The screen finally lit up and I found the A.O.L icon so that I could get onto the Internet. As it signed in it made the loud dial up sound it made every time you wanted to go on. Onto the Internet I went, and the brightly lit screen soon mesmerized me. Fast forward twelve years and I am sitting in a hard black plastic chair, my feet on the ground in my dorm room. Today, I use new silver, sleek Mac Book Pro to write essays and of course go on the Internet. Many college courses now require the use the Internet, completing and turning in homework on programs created such as Angel, Owl, and MyMathLab. Over time the Internet have given me the chance to excel academically and socially but often times the Internet can also distract me.

There are millions of different websites on the Internet that can be useful to students across the board from kindergarten up to graduate school. Students often times use the Internet to help them with homework. Popular sites such as Wikipedia, Dictionary.com, and the major search engine Google can answer almost any question for

Comment [SG1]: You have succeeded in capturing the expectations of the reflective essay genre with an anecdote such as this. This immediately draws the reader's attention and therefore is an effective strategy.

students. Although, it may seem quite simple to use the Internet and search for various subjects, many times secondary schools teach students the “correct” or what they think is the “best” way to search the internet. Students are taught how to effectively search through the Internet and weed out the useless websites so the student can find quality information. Not only is the Internet there to help students with homework and papers; it is where the homework is done and papers are turned in. Owl is a chemistry website used across Michigan State’s campus. The program shows a question about the lessons on the screen and has a box to type the answer in then it grades them right then, on the spot so that students know their score. Another program like this is MyMathLab that is used for math. Angel is another popular website used at Michigan State. Professors can post their lessons, messages, notes, and homework on the site then students can login, read the posted notes and do the homework. Often time’s papers are turned in over the Internet site Angel as well. Thus, in the recent years the Internet has become a great resource for academic **improvement**.

Not only has the Internet improved our academic standards but it has also improved our ability to socially reach out. Email has become a major part of many people’s communication in their daily lives. It allows for information to be sent quickly to countless people across the globe. Another major website for communication between people is the infamous Facebook. This is a popular social network where people across the board join. A student as young as middle school and people as old as grandparents have a Facebook page. It allows for people to interact with each other virtually, instead of in person. This virtual world is great for keeping in touch with old friends, keeping up with present friends and, of course, meeting new friends. Another very popular program

Comment [SG2]: You have made some good points on the academic use of the Internet. It might be little confusing to your readers who are not aware of the course websites used in the campus to differentiate them for the kinds of websites that the student also uses. I would recommend putting these information in clear distinct paragraphs. Also, you have stated in your thesis that Internet helps you as a student. The list of available technology does not clearly state how they are specifically helping you in achieving academic goals or facilitating your learning experience.

that uses the Internet is Skype. Skype is software that uses the Internet to makes voice or video calls to other users of Skype. This is key for anyone in a long distance relationship, instead of just talking over the phone the couple can see each other, and it feels like he or she is right there next to the person on the other side of the screen. Therefore, the Internet has allowed people with a variety of choices in their communication with their neighbors or people across the world.

Comment [SG3]: Again, the list of available social networking websites does not clearly indicate your relationship with you personally. Consider reflecting on that.

Internet has definitely made a huge dent in our society academically and socially, but there is a down side to everything moving onto the Internet and that is all the distractions. While on my laptop in my dorm room, it has become hard for me to get my work done on the Internet and has been very time consuming. I have come to the answer that it is because between almost every question whether on MyMathLab or Owl I find a way to go check out my Facebook, or chat on Skype. Writing this paper was even difficult for me, I kept making my way to the Internet checking my Facebook since it is so convenient to go on. While doing math or chemistry on notebook paper away from the computer the problems seem to get done much faster since there is no internet to distract you from your work. I am not the only student with this problem, I know plenty of other students who spend hours on Facebook, chatting, looking at pictures, and even just reading other people "status". Overall, the Internet is not only a resource; it is a large distraction for student's academic success as well.

Comment [SG4]: You are regaining the focus now as you are reflecting on your experience with the technologies that are at your disposal.

Comment [SG5]: Wait... the question on resource was in the previous paragraph. This is on the how Internet helps you be socially networked, correct?

In conclusion the Internet has allowed me to strive for academic success, give me great opportunities to remain social and sometimes distract me from my work. Search engines such as Google and Internet programs such as Angel, Owl, and MyMathLab all help students to work towards their academic goals. Socially people are fulfilled by the

use of Facebook and Skype to chat with others across the globe. Although Internet is a resource, it also can be a major distraction because of its easy access. Internet has come so far from when I was young, now just about everything is done over the Internet.

Comment [SG6]: But that is not really the point of the paper, I think. What is the main point of the paper? How would you summarize your understanding of the effects of Internet in your life in the last paragraph?

Score: 3.0: The title of the paper is "Internet" ... but the paper deals with some specific websites that are either used by students for their coursework or social networking. This does not really represent the functions and possibilities of Internet. There is a scope for a more creative title to capture the theme of this paper. Think about it.

Very captivating beginning. Once I scan the paper, the three main paragraphs deal with (a) academic websites that you use (b) description social media websites that you think people mostly use, (c) Distractions because of social networking websites. The main problem of the paper is the inconsistency of its focus. The entire paper could be focused on your experience with some of websites that you generally interact with. The argument that builds up strongly in the paper is that Internets can be useful but also distractive. However, this is mentioned in the beginning and end only, and those are the best parts in your paper. I would recommend re-envisioning what aspects of Internet interface of a student's life you would like to portray and build your arguments leading up to that.

A very good first attempt. The paper has a lot of potential since this is something that you are writing from your own experience.