

"The Veldt"

In the story "The Veldt," written by Ray Bradbury, a family becomes dependent on technology. The parents, George and Lydia, buy a perfect sized house that does not require any man-labor. The children, Peter and Wendy, have a nursery that allows them to fantasize about anything they want. Peter and Wendy spend most of their time in the nursery which allows the parents to have their own space. Peter and Wendy become completely dependent on the house and don't need their actual parents. When George and Lydia realize how disconnected their family has become, they try to fix it. The children have no desire to do that anymore because the house is all they need to be happy. Ray Bradbury illustrates how technology is causing many addiction problems, laziness, and detachment, and I agree.

Ray Bradbury illustrates that addiction is becoming a problem in society. In the story George and Lydia are addicted to many substances like alcohol, cigarettes, and sleeping pills. Lydia says, "You smoke a little more every morning and drink a little more every afternoon and need a little more sedative every night"(10). The house is doing all of their normal everyday chores so now they have nothing to do with their extra time. Peter and Lydia spend all of their time in the nursery and when George and Lydia tries to turn off the nursery they freak out: "Just a moment, just one moment , just another moment of nursery"(17). This shows how addicted they are because they can not let go of the nursery, it has become a part of their normal life. David Greenfield, psychologist and author says, "Computer technology is addictive because they're 'psychoactive.'" They alter mood and trigger enjoyable feelings. Studies have shown that technology addict's brain patterns are not that different from a drug addicts. Users associate gaming with a good and happy feeling, using it as an escape.

In addition, Bradbury argues that laziness is becoming a problem caused by technology. Lydia begins to feel like she has nothing to do but sit around. George says, "But I thought that's why we bought this house, so we wouldn't have to do anything"(9). This illustrates how technology is causing George and Lydia to have no purpose or anything to keep them busy. All Peter and Wendy want to do is sit around and let technology take care of them. Peter announces, "I don't want to do anything but look and listen and smell; what else is there to do?"(14). This illustrates how since the kids grew up with technology they do not want to do anything. A doctor running the Nimhans

clinic said constant messaging apps and frequent changes of status updates linked to cases of insomnia, depression, and social withdrawal. People addicted to technology tested low on measures of self- directness and cooperatives. (CS)

Lastly, Bradbury demonstrates how technology has caused detachment between human relationships. Lydia does not take care of her children like a mother should. She mentions, "The house is wife and mother now and nursemaid"(10). This shows how disconnected Lydia feels from her family because she does not have a purpose. David McClean explains how Peter and Wendy have no connection with their parents, "You've let this room and this house replace you and your wife in your children's affections. This room is their mother and father, far more important in their lives than their real parents"(16). Peter and Wendy have become emotionally attached to technology because their parents were not taking care of them, the house was. The LSE researchers write, "Psychological approaches suggest that people use the internet excessively to compensate for social or psychological difficulties and deficits in personal wellbeing terms of their everyday offline life. Studies have linked sensation-seeking (a tendency to pursue excitement and sensory pleasure), loneliness and emotional problems (such as depression and low self-confidence) to excessive Internet use." Heathline Networks have been studying technology and have noticed People who are always issuing technology isolate themselves from family and friends. They come out of touch with reality and sink into depression. Therefore, Ray Bradbury has sucessfully showed how negativity technology has affected people.

Ray Bradbury displays how technology is affecting our world in a negative way, and I agree. A study was run and sixty five percent of our population owns a smartphone, and they are dependent on it. Technology causes addiction, laziness, and many people to detach from society. Take a look around, almost everyone you see is checking his/her phone every five minutes, taking pictures, calling someone, ordering food, skypeing, and updating their social life on a networks that no one cares about.

Great essay.

Good facts from today.

www.medicalnewstoday.com

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www.webmd.com

“The Veldt” Analysis

“The Veldt” is a short story by Ray Bradbury about a family—George and Lydia Hadley, and their children, Wendy and Peter—living in a future in which there are machines to do everything for people. Their house cooks for them, dresses them, and cleans them. The children have a nursery which simulates whatever environment they think of. They travel to a plastic carnival in a helicopter, and rockets are available for long-distance transportation. Bradbury argues that technology has negative effects, but I believe that many of the effects are positive.

Bradbury argues that technology decreases creativity, while I believe it’s made some people more creative. In the story, Wendy and Peter are unhappy when their automatic picture painter is removed so that they can learn to paint their own pictures. They had no interest in being creative. Minecraft has sold 54 million copies, making it the third best-selling video game. Since Minecraft is focused on building, that’s millions of people—many of them kids—who are using technology to be creative. People can also learn Java programming by writing modifications for Minecraft, or digital art/graphics by making texture packs—modifications to the images used for various game elements. Therefore, Ray Bradbury illustrates technology decreasing creativity, while today we can see it encouraging kids to be creative.

Bradbury argues that technology causes laziness, while I believe that it allows people to work on things they’re interested in. In the story, Peter is horrified at the idea of living without everything being automated. He doesn’t want to do the simplest things, like tie his shoes. Many families use technology that does work for them or saves time, like dishwashers or microwaves. Over the past four decades, the amount of time devoted to leisure activities has risen by 4-8 hours per week. This gives people time to do work that

they care about. Consequently, while Ray Bradbury contends that technology weakens productivity, we can see it giving people more time to be productive today.

Bradbury argues that technology hurts relationships, while I believe that it can enhance relationships. In the story, the nursery has replaced the children's parents. Bradbury describes a future in which parents are no longer needed to take care of children. In 2013, two billion minutes were spent on Skype every day. I use Google Hangouts to talk to my friends who don't live very nearby. It would be impractical to go to each others' houses, so technology lets me talk to them more often. Hence, Bradbury asserts that technology impairs relationships, and today we can see it connecting people who couldn't otherwise.

While in 1951 Ray Bradbury believed that technology would destroy creativity, initiative, and relationships, today we can see that this has not happened. Technology gives people new ways to be creative. Even elementary school kids can make movies with their iPods. It gives them more time to be productive, because machines do work that would otherwise take up people's time. Finally, it allows them to maintain relationships across long distances, using services such as Skype or Facebook. It's hard to predict what will happen with technology.

Good essay - well organized +
clearly exemplified

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The Veldt

"The Veldt," by Ray Bradbury, is a science fiction story predicting that technology is taking away people's humanity. The parents, George and Lydia, have given their kids, Peter and Wendy, everything including a machine that ties their shoes, makes their food, and cleans up after them. George and Lydia thought that this house was amazing; that it was a truly miraculous that a house could take care of them without them ever having to lift a finger. Sadly, the wish went sour when they realized that their children no longer respect them, and treat the house like their parents instead of their own parents. When George and Lydia decided to take away the nursery, which the kids had spent all their time, and the kids revolted. Ray Bradbury argues that technology isn't the answer for everything, and that as time goes on, technology may take away your human nature if you aren't careful. I agree with that because people are losing their creativity nowadays.

Ray Bradbury argues that technology is on the path to take away people's human nature, and make them lifeless blobs of human beings. I agree with that because people nowadays are much lazier, and that people are much less individualized. He illustrates through his story that people are lazy by showing that they have machines to do everything, to give them baths, to rock them to sleep at night, and even tie their shoes. "Would I have to tie my own shoes instead of letting my shoe tier do it?" Peter said it so incredulously, as if he believed that they were honestly joking with him. That it was a prank on him, a goof. That taking away his technology was too ridiculous to even fathom. When the kids got back from the Plastic Carnival, they immediately walk to their nursery. Today, instead of kids coming home and playing outside and riding their bikes, kids come home from school and immediately fire up their computer, while they have their iPhone in hand. Gone are the days of the family hikes and adventures; families stay at home and watch Netflix; it is even too much trouble to actually go to a movie theater. Some think, why should we venture out of the house when we can buy movies on demand? The researchers at the Milken Institute in California found a direct link between new technology and the dramatic rise in obesity in twenty-seven countries between 1988 and 2009; United States is at the top of this list. During the past twenty years, the obese and overweight children has rapidly increased. This is all attached to parents and kids not communicating, and not exercising, because they are on their phones constantly. U.S. National Institutes of Health that children get at least an hour of moderate exercise a day. Therefore, as Bradbury saw laziness and inefficiency in the day, it's coming true now.

In "The Veldt", Bradbury is imposing the idea of addiction. I agree that technology is the face of addiction; everyone is addicted to their phones, their computers, or just in watching Netflix, Youtube and TV all the time. Bradbury is supporting his argument by showing that Peter and Wendy are so upset with their parents, they plan to kill them. They don't want to allow their parents to take away the nursery or the technology that they are addicted to. It's a perfect example of addiction; the kids have become so reliant on

technology, that when it's taken away from them, they reach to drastic measures to ensure that they're beloved item, or in this case, nursery is safe. The parents are finally realizing how addicted their kids are to the nursery, but the kids are too far gone to be helped. When George and Lydia make an attempt at weaning their kids off of technology and the nursery, they throw tantrums and plot a way to rid the house of their parents so that they can enjoy their nursery forever. It's hard to imagine how technology could be a bad thing and that you could get addicted to technology, but the short story "The Veldt" confirms the hold addiction has on us. Ninety percent of American adults have a cellphone in the modern world, and sixty-seven percent of cell phone users check their phones for messages, emails, or updates even when they don't notice their phone beep. Twenty-nine percent of cell owners describe their cell phone as "something they can't imagine living without." In a modern society, cell phones are just one of the many addictions that we engulf ourselves in. Many believe that having some sort of things, a visual thing or physical thing, could make us feel whole; knowing that we have the whole span of the internet wrapped in our hands, helps feed into the addiction that we have. Bradbury argues that addiction is real for everyone, and if you aren't careful, you can get sucked into the black hole of addiction. I believe that it's causing more addiction; I agree with Bradbury when he shows that kids can experience addiction just as much as parents can. This story shows that anyone can get sucked into technology, and supports that there is a real addiction of being in constant contact with everyone and having the entire world at your fingertips.

In "The Veldt", Bradbury is showing us that families are falling apart because of technology. Bradbury states through his work, that people aren't trying to communicate with each other or make any sort of effort to even act like a family anymore; I wholely agree with him. Now, in the modern world, kids don't even treat their parents with the respect that they should; kids rely on drugs and sex and technology to keep them busy. They disrespect their parents because their parents never taught them to respect them, and they became too busy on technology to even care. The kids, Wendy and Peter, don't even believe that their parents are important. All they want is the house. When they lock the parents in the nursery, Peter shouts, "Don't let them take away the nursery!" He isn't shouting to his parents, he's screaming to the house, his amazing, all-providing parent. Peter has dissed the parents so bad that he doesn't even believe them to be his parents, he believes the house, an inanimate object with no emotional abilities is his perfect parent. Parents in today's world spend so much time on their phones, it's the first thing they reach for in the morning, and the last in the night, and kids are feeding on these habits. They're picking up on the signals and observing everything. With people being on their phones the whole time, kids are getting the signals that they should be doing exactly what their parents are doing. Parents are blaming their childrens' ineffectiveness and uncommunicativeness on the phones themselves, but they never thought about who taught their youngsters to do all this. Technology in all of this is acting like a cliff, and it's cutting into parent/child relationships by pushing the parents one way, and kids the other. He blatantly shows that the minors and adults are so influenced by technology that they don't even care about connecting with anyone, and treat their phones like parents/kids. I agree with Bradbury that technology could be the end of human interaction. He clearly shows that the kids only believe in their technology, and they don't care about their parents, which can directly relate to today with

all the new smart phones coming out that are just making the void between parents and kids that much bigger.

I agree with Ray Bradbury's ideas that he revealed through "The Veldt". In it, he argues the dangers of distant families, addiction, and loss of creativity. Bradbury states in his own words that people are losing their creativity and that technology is robbing us of our own ability to function without it. He also sends off warning signals within his writing that families will eventually crumble and fall apart. He blatantly shows how the kids rebel against their parents because they don't believe that they are the parents that know what's best for them; the kids had become so reliant on the house and the nursery that it was impossible for them to even *fathom* that George and Lydia are their parents. The bottom line is, people are attached to electronics. Now, in the world we're in, people have one addiction or another; technology is opening them up to that. Bradbury is showing that these kids became so addicted to technology that they would murder their own parents to keep it safe. Electronics, in my opinion, is great in small portions, the more time you spend on it is worse for you, because through phones, computers, or TV's you could be opened up to any sort of addiction. I ask you, if you had to get off your computer or phone, could you? For an hour? For a day? For a week? For a month?

Resources:

livestrong.com
theguardian.com
consumer.healthday.com
[parenting - train - discipline - love - child.blogspot.com](http://parenting-train-discipline-love-child.blogspot.com)
[the next web.com](http://thenextweb.com)
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The short story "The Veldt" from the book *The Illustrated Man*, by Ray Bradbury takes place in the future. It's about a family that buys a house that can do almost everything for them using technology. The children become obsessed with their high-tech nursery that digitally creates anything they imagine. Ray Bradbury illustrates that he believes that technology has negative affects on people, society, and the earth. I agree with most of his ideas.

Bradbury says that technology leads to addiction. I agree with this view. Technology itself is an addiction. Clinics to aid people with "technology addiction" are opening across the world. In modern day, most teens seem to be addicted to their smartphone. In fact, 12 percent of Americans even use their phone in the shower. The attachment people have developed to their phones is an issue. There's even a name for the fear of not having your phone. It's called nomophobia. In a survey, 41% of participants said they feel anxious when away from their phone. This same issue is illustrated in "The Veldt". The children in the story get very upset when their parents threaten to lock up their nursery. The children become obsessed with the nursery and are horrified at the thought of not having access to that technology anymore. As you can see, technology was shown to be controlling in both 1950 and in present day.

Another idea that I understand from "The Veldt" is that technology controls your life. In this short story, the house controls the parents, the parents aren't controlling the house. The house does everything for them. They just walk around like zombies letting technology do everything for them. The children, who don't know a world without this technology, are mortified at the mention of being without it. They are unconsciously letting the house restrain them. Peter says, "That sounds dreadful! Would I have to tie my own shoe instead of letting the shoe tier do it? And brush my own teeth and comb my hair and give myself a bath?" In modern day,

technology is already starting to manage things for us. We have automatic toilets, doors, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, sinks, and lights in everyday public places. In fact, The average US household uses 10.6 megawatt-hours (MWh) electricity per year. The automaticity of technology has caused us to be dependant on it.

Bradbury also shows that technology is also taking over parents' responsibilities. In "The Veldt" the parents do nothing for their children besides discipline them. The house cooks and does everything for the children. The house has become their parent. This causes the children to have no respect for their parents. They have no reason to, though, since the house is the one to takes care of all of their needs. The house even cooks and ties their shoes for them. When Lydia and George try to make the children learn something for themselves, the children get angry. An example of this is when George is referring to turning the house off and says, "*It would be fun for a change. Don't you think?*" and Peter responds, "*No, it would be horrid. I didn't like it when you took out the picture painter last month.*" I've seen this theme on a lower scale in my own life. My parents used to wake me up every morning. Then, when I bought an iPod I started using an alarm app instead. Technology can cause children to be less dependant on their parents, taking over parents' responsibilities.

Ray Bradbury's "The Veldt" contains a series of themes. It forces you to think about the negatives effects of technology. It causes addiction, controls your life, and takes over parents' jobs. In the end, Technology eventually means the death of Lydia and George. Technology has developed a lot in the past years and we can do things we never could before. As long as you use technology responsibly, it can have many positive effects.

Great Essay!

"The Veldt"

In the short story, "The Veldt" by Ray Bradbury, the futuristic world is shown in a negative way. Electronics are used for simple things such as preparing food and putting your shoes on. Some people become dependent on technology to take care of them. Children begin to see it as their caretaker. When George and Lydia, the parents of two spoiled children notice this, they try to shut down the house and all it's capable of doing. The kids, Wendy and Peter, fear losing their favorite feature of the house. A nursery that simulates their every thought and makes it real. When it gets taken away, they go to violent measures in order to save it. These action, portray how dangerously attached we are beginning to become with our electronics today, and which I agree with today.

A major issue throughout the story is addiction brought on because of technology, I believe this to be true. Lydia and George turn to pills, alcohol, and smoking to fill their time. Now that computers are doing everything for them, they don't have a role or responsibility in life. The children become very upset and throw a fit when the nursery gets closed. Peter goes as far as saying, "I hate you" and, "I wish you were dead", to his father. This demonstrates just how much their values of what's important have been disoriented. Lastly, Wendy and Peter lock their parents in the nursery and have them eaten by lions, proving that instead of necessitating people and others, their dependent on the nursery. Studies show that 4 out of 5 students who were forced to not use their cell phones for a day had severe confusion, distress and anxiety. The future generations will likely become more and more attached to their cell phones. More than 50 percent of all people admit to driving and texting at the same time. Not only is this illegal in many

states, but six times more dangerous than driving drunk. Now people are beginning to risk their lives because they care so much about social media.

great detail!

Bradbury brings forth the idea that the future will lose family values, while I completely concur. When Lydia is startled by the lion simulation, George "instinctively" ran after her. This hints how George cares for or even loves his wife, possibly because they came from a different era. As where their children not only murder but treat their parents coldly beforehand. This suggests how their feelings and morals are numbed by overdoing unnatural influences in everyday life. Wendy and Peter do as they want, such as coming home from the fair at anytime and skipping dinner with the family, leading up to the fact that as time goes on our intentions and values are getting more and more off track. Cornell University studies showed we have began to value small relationships over social media and it weakens the important relationships we have in real life. Even when you are surrounded with people in a lobby, waiting room, or a store line people, gravitate towards their phones instead of engaging in interactions and conversation. 62 percent a people use social media to inform others about information or good news. Qnly 16 percent of people schedule a time to meet, face to face with other people. If we do not turn this behavior around now, it will only progress.

The one thing I disagree with is the underlying idea that all technology is bad. Such as Lydia suggesting, "Why don't we shut the whole house down." Some electronic help is not bad as long as you are not reliant on it. The family did not do anything on their own, such as take a bath or go to bed. This kind of technology is not a good thing. Instead we should use it in ways we only need, such as medicine, research, and medical cures. Technology has improved our ways of predicting the patterns of virus breakouts using google. Although this is minor compared to what technology can do, I feel it's a very important use. Another more advanced medical use

that has to do with technology is CT scans. In Austin, Texas the Mindways CT firm has come up with a new version that can determine your bone density. Confirming that technology is able to do great things for people if in the right hands. Bradbury has a more negative outlook on technology, coming from an older generation, where as i see it useful, in some ways, due to recent discoveries. Overall we share an understanding about the harms of electronics.

Throughout the events in Bradbury's story, we are shown how toxic it can be when you are dependent on technology. Computers have potential to enhance or degrade our behavior and actions. The story implies if we don't take action now it will be too late. As demonstrated humans develop addictive behavior and lose family values because of electronics although not all technology is bad. Finally it is up to new generations to rise above and make sure our morals stay not only pure but powerful!

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