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BALANCING THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF TECHNOLOGY IN DAILY LIFE

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Annotation: This article examines the dual nature of technology in our daily lives, exploring its numerous benefits as well as the potential drawbacks it presents. By highlighting the importance of achieving a balanced approach to technology use, we can maximize its advantages while mitigating its negative impacts on our well-being.

Keywords: technology, daily life, benefits, drawbacks, digital balance

Technology has become an integral part of our daily lives, offering countless benefits and conveniences that have transformed the way we live, work, and interact with the world around us. However, alongside its many advantages, technology also presents a range of drawbacks and challenges that can impact our well-being and quality of life. This article aims to explore the balance between the benefits and drawbacks of technology in daily life, emphasizing the importance of achieving a harmonious relationship with technology to optimize its potential while minimizing its negative effects.

One of the most significant benefits of technology in daily life is its ability to enhance communication and connectivity. Through email, social media, messaging apps, and video conferencing platforms, we can stay connected with friends, family, and colleagues regardless of geographical distance. Technology enables us to share information, exchange ideas, and collaborate on projects in real-time, fostering meaningful relationships and facilitating global communication and collaboration.

Moreover, technology has revolutionized the way we access information and acquire knowledge. The internet serves as a vast repository of information on virtually every topic imaginable, providing instant access to news, research articles, educational resources, and multimedia content. Online learning platforms, digital libraries, and educational apps offer opportunities for lifelong learning and skill development, empowering individuals to pursue their educational goals and expand their horizons.

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In addition to communication and information access, technology has transformed various aspects of daily life, from entertainment and leisure activities to healthcare and productivity. Streaming services, gaming platforms, and digital entertainment options provide endless opportunities for entertainment and relaxation. Wearable devices, health tracking apps, and telemedicine services offer tools for monitoring health and wellness, accessing medical information, and receiving personalized healthcare services. Productivity apps, time management tools, and digital assistants streamline daily tasks, boost efficiency, and improve workflow management.

However, alongside its numerous benefits, technology also presents a range of drawbacks and challenges that can impact our well-being and quality of life. Excessive screen time and digital device use have been linked to a range of physical and mental health issues, including eye strain, sleep disturbances, sedentary behavior, and digital addiction. Moreover, the constant barrage of notifications, alerts, and information overload can lead to feelings of overwhelm, distraction, and cognitive overload, affecting our ability to focus, concentrate, and retain information.

Furthermore, technology has raised concerns about privacy, security, and data protection, as our digital activities and personal information are increasingly stored, shared, and monetized by corporations and governments. The proliferation of online misinformation, fake news, and digital manipulation has eroded trust in traditional media sources and raised questions about the reliability and authenticity of information online. Moreover, technology has transformed the nature of work and employment, leading to concerns about job displacement, automation, and the gig economy.

In order to navigate the complex landscape of technology in daily life, it is essential to adopt a balanced approach that maximizes its benefits while mitigating its drawbacks. This involves being mindful of our technology use, setting boundaries and limits on screen time, and prioritizing activities that promote well-being and connection in the offline world. Practicing digital detoxes, unplugging from technology periodically, and engaging in activities such as exercise, nature walks, and face-to-face interactions can help restore balance and reduce the negative impacts of technology on our health and happiness.

Moreover, promoting digital literacy, critical thinking, and media literacy skills is essential for empowering individuals to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and discern fact from fiction online. By educating ourselves and others about the potential risks

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and challenges of technology, we can make informed decisions about how to use technology in ways that align with our values, priorities, and well-being.

In conclusion, technology offers numerous benefits and opportunities for enhancing our daily lives, from communication and information access to entertainment and productivity. However, it also presents a range of drawbacks and challenges that can impact our health, well-being, and quality of life. By striving to achieve a balanced approach to technology use, we can maximize its benefits while mitigating its negative impacts, ensuring that technology enhances rather than detracts from our overall happiness and fulfillment in daily life.

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