

You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

My wife told me about some huge renovations at the campus of a university she attends. The public restrooms in their buildings were closed for an extended period while automated paper towel, soap dispensers, faucets, and toilets were installed. Within a week after the grand re-opening, the automated paper towel dispensers were broke and custodians were leaving paper towel rolls on the sink. Small, gooey, pink waterfalls of liquid soap cascaded from the countertops after the soap dispensers malfunctioned. The worst problem was the toilets that appeared to have evolved minds of their own. As you sat on them, they would randomly decide it was time to flush, whether you were ready for this experience or not. According to my wife, you would hear a cacophony of coordinated toilets flushing in gurgling harmony when they were being occupied by human users. These were no ordinary flushes. They were Category 5 hurricane flushes, where you had to cower in the corner of the stall to avoid the maelstrom.

The scariest thing about this to me was that the exact same theatrics were occurring at the place where I work, where the newly renovated bathrooms were also revolting against their human users. Who is behind this (no pun intended)? Is it a terrorist plot to deplete our already dwindling water supply? Are the little red LCD lights listening or mind control devices placed by the CIA in order to control the hearts and minds of the people? I have many theories, but unfortunately not enough space in this essay to extrapolate.

Nonetheless, this I believe: while technology has made our life easier in many ways, it certainly hasn’t made it any simpler. As human beings, we need to keep firm grips on the handles of certain things before we allow automation to dictate our fate.

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.  In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:   * The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were * The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were * This essay reminded me of/ made me think of * This essay made me think in a new way * This essay was similar to another essay |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was: