**Challenge and Change in Canadian Society – Digital Detox Assignment**

**HSB4U – Mr. Shields**

“I fear the day when technology overlaps our humanity. It will be then that the world will have a generation of idiots.” (Albert Einstein… Who never really said that)

**Learning Goal:** To critically analyze the role technology has in creating social change, and by using a variety of terms/theories to critically connect the impact of technology on society to my own identity and social interactions.

**Task:**

* In this assignment – better yet, ***challenge for marks*** – you will attempt a **Digital Detox** this week from Tuesday to Friday and present your results according to class terms and discussions.
* Complete a **journal** based on (but certainly not limited to) the journal prompts given in class (this will be handed in as the original, handwritten copy). This should be an ongoing reflection of this experience.
* Write a **reflection report** according to the following ideas (4 paragraphs):
* The concept of cultural phenomenon; the cultural impact of smartphones; the notion that we are not in control vs. the idea that our inventions are extensions of our better selves, etc.
* Relevance of course terms to the introduction (future shock, technosis, nomophobia, hyperculture, Marshall McLuhan, etc.)
* A critical analysis of your online/social media presence. How do various course terms (egocentrism, imaginary audience, personal fable, George Mead, Charles Cooley) relate to you and this overall experience? Are you truly suffering from nomophobia or are you still in control?
* Will this experience change your relationship with technology/social media? Where will your relationship with it go next? How much deeper will/can society go with smartphone addiction? How might we go about changing our connected culture?

**The Challenge**

From the beginning of class **Tuesday April 4** until **the end** of the period on **Friday April 7** (I will be putting the devices in the school safe) you will attempt a Digital Detox by not using:

* SnapChat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and other social media
* Video Games (online or otherwise)
* Computer (other than for schoolwork – but keep yourself honest here!!)
* Texting (talking on a phone the way Alexander Graham Bell intended is OK)
* Any other device where you can go online (iPods, iPads, etc)

The report will be due on **Thursday April 13**.

**Overall Success Criteria:**

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| Knowledge and Understanding | * Use of social science facts/terms * Definitions of social science facts/terms |
| Thinking and Inquiry | * Elaboration of social science facts/terms in report * Thoughtful discussion on the topic in report * Purposeful and genuine reflection in your journal |
| Application | * Connects social science facts/terms in credible way * Connects social science facts/terms from other parts of the course |
| Communication | * Overall conventions of writing (spelling, grammar, sentence structure, etc.) * Presentation and creativity of journal |