Twenty-Five Questions to Ask about Technology

A Basic Analysis of Technology and Its Impacts Jason Ohler © 1999 // jason.ohler@uas.alaska.edu // www.jasonohler.com

Part I. The Technology Itself

- 1. What does it do? What is it made of? Who can fix it?
- 2. Tool or Machine? (Regular behavior? How much do you direct?)
- 3. How does it extend/amplify you? How does it reduce/diminish you?

Part II. Social Context of the Technology

- 1. Did your parents have it at your age? Grandparents? How did they live without it?
- 2. Do your friends have it? Do people you admire have it?
- 3. Does your family consider it important?
- 4. Do you talk about it? In what way is it a lifestyle choice?

Part III. The Biases of the Technology

- 1. What does it encourage or discourage you to do?
- 2. What does it commodify?
- 3. Is the need for the technology real or created?
- 4. How it is sold to you? Media? Friends? Peer pressure?

Part IV. Impacts of the Technology

- 1. Environmental
- 2. Human body
- 3. Social, family
- 4. Work
- 5. Relationship with yourself
- 6. Power structure
- 7. Education
- 8. Other cultures
- 9. Future technologies

Part V. Final Analysis

- 1. How does it connect you, disconnect you?
- 2. Liberate vs. enslave you?
- 3. Empower vs. debilitate you?
- 4. Can it, should it be improved?
- 5. What if your final judgment of this technology?