**Reflection: Technology Statement**

**What Is Your Personal Technology Statement?**

One of the things than can be overwhelming about exploring practices of digital communities has to do with our own overall comfort level with adapting to a rapidly changing digital world.

Every year, there are new platforms and new capacities within older platforms that require understanding and mastery.

All of us use and have particular perspectives on what role the digital world should play in our lives. For some, participating in online communities is met with fear, suspicion, or is downright confusing. For others, every new development in the digital world is met with opportunity and social value.

**Crafting a Technology Statement**

Mission statements tend to be a paragraph that defines the philosophy of a particular company or organization, but technology statements are not something that is considered common for either our personal or professional use. Nonetheless, the merits of this activity are simple. The more we understand our relationship with all things digital, the better we can improve and overcome the obstacles that are preventing us from using these tools for the benefits of our personal and professional growth.

This approach to technology is expressed in the work of education scholar Jason B. Ohner’s scholarship on digital engagement in *Digital Community, Digital Citizen* (Corwin, 2010). In his work, he refers to it as a mantra, rather than a statement.

Aim to think of a saying that might best represent and summarize the values and beliefs that you have about the digital world in your personal and/or professional life. In might be helpful to first brainstorm a list of concerns (positive or negative) that you have about technology and then craft a statement out of those words and ideas.

Some examples of personal statements might read like this:

* Staying connected is my priority, one user at a time.

For something more playful:

* Bring it on! There is nothing new that I don’t want to use.

For someone more hesitant and cautious, their mantra might be:

* Communication? Face-to-face is the only app I care about.

In order to get you thinking about this topic, answer the following questions about your own technology use. In response to questions 1-5, question 6 asks you to state your personal technology statement in more detail based on some of the examples listed below.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. When you hear the term social media, what are some terms you associate with it?
2. List all of the social media sites that you use.
   1. What is your favourite social media site? Why is that?
3. What is your frequency of your use of social media? For example, how many times a day do you check your social networking sites?
4. As a communication tool, what do you believe are the advantages of social media?
5. As a communication tool, what do you believe are the disadvantages of social media?
6. YOUR PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT:

Given your consideration of your own technology use, draft a one sentence personal technology statement below:

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**Follow up:**

* Why do believe this statement best characterizes your attitude towards social media?

At the end of the course, we will revisit this statement to see if it has changed through our encounter with the ideas learned in the course.