

Think about it; the human race is robotic by nature. Not only do we find security in the consistency of our daily routines at school or work, but we are all bonded by our fascination and sole devotion to technology. This has become so prevalent in the modern era that the world is glued to a screen, whether that is an iPhone, tablet, laptop, you name it. Robotically, we rely on this constant circulation of information from all of the technological sources we can get our hands on. Many have wondered, what is the limit on technology and does one even exist? Practically eating us alive, is technology consuming the human race in ways that need to be stopped?

As for one of these ways, technology has become a major influence in the school setting, from elementary school all the way through college. With online textbooks, homework submissions through the Internet, and interactive review games played during class, it is no wonder that the classroom setting has further developed with the advancement of technological resources. Now more than ever, high school graduates are taking advantage of the convenience of online schooling. Eliminating the traditional college experience, students are earning their degrees right in their own homes, and the process: one-on-one time with their computers. However, online learning is not as valuable and educational as face-to-face learning and if students want to get the most out of any educational experience, the robotic route online is not the way to go.

As a student who has chosen the traditional education route for the past 13 years, I have lived through the technological transition of classroom learning. In middle school and especially high school, I have observed how relying on cell phones, for instance, does prep a class for a test

through a review game or allows students access to course material online. Although these technological resources create a more dynamic classroom, the implementation of strictly online learning takes away from what makes classroom learning so unique. For one, online learning completely eliminates the need to build social skills necessary to properly communicate with others. As a tutor to my peers in several subjects, I have seen firsthand the importance of face-to-face interaction when it comes to learning new course material and preparation for exams. From the student end of the deal, having the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning not only enriches the educational experience, but provides students with the chance to think critically and engage with others. When it comes to online schooling, the teacher becomes an imaginary figure and the other students cease to exist. Instead, course material becomes monotonous and one-dimensional as students form relationships only with their computer screens.

In terms of making the appropriate decision for their child's educational path, parents are hit the hardest by society's technological issue of online schooling. Wanting to provide their children with the best opportunities to succeed, parents that steer clear of traditional education are setting up their children for failure. Already decreasing their ability to analyze and problem solve, online schooling keeps students from interacting with their teachers and classmates. This is especially significant since children and young adults form lasting friendships early in their education and as humans, we are innate social butterflies. In fact, if asked, almost all high school students will agree that their friendships and involvement in extracurricular activities is what makes traditional schooling most worthwhile. Therefore, it is the responsibility of parents to recognize this and steer clear of the setbacks that online schooling could have on their children.

When looking at the big picture, it is especially important to think about what students will face in the real-world after graduation from college. Applying for jobs through interviews, the majority of students will need to be able to present themselves appropriately to authority figures and clientele. This also includes selling products, conveying ideas, and voicing opinions that require refined communication skills. With an online degree, not only are students lacking these social skills from a young age, but they are hurting their chances of success in their futures. Simply stated, the job market is the prime example of the survival of the fittest.

For high school graduates however, many would argue that the complete traditional college package comes at an astronomical price point. With costs for tuition, room and board, food services, etc. the price for college has put such a burden on families all across the nation, not to mention the large debt that graduates are stuck with. On the other hand, some life skills are too valuable to pass up, regardless of the price that comes along with obtaining them. In this case, social skills are just one of these qualities, not to mention receiving the ideal education whose benefits last a lifetime. Although less pricey, online learning is not worth the sacrifice of compromising one's critical thinking, social skills, and hands-on learning experience necessary for success in later careers. In terms of education, America does not want to become a land of robots with our technology glued to our hips at all times for the educational reason of online learning. Instead, technological resources should be used to further enhance traditional learning in the classroom. America must stop the online schooling movement from eating our students alive, before it is too late.