

## Describe the background

At 55 years old, my dad is significantly ahead of most people his age when it comes to technology. He holds a Master's in Education Technology, owns (and knows how to use) an iPhone, and spends considerable amounts of his time at home on the family iMac, whether he is playing one of his countless Facebook games, downloading torrents of CDs and videos of old Bruce Springsteen concerts, or just browsing the internet. As someone who has always had a solid understanding and appreciation of technological advances, I decided he would be an excellent candidate to highlight the vast changes in technology from the 1970s to today.

## summarizing what you learned

What technologies that are common place today did not exist when you were 20?

When you were 20, how were the following different than they are today?

Despite the fact that his typical day now revolves around iMacs, his iPhone, SmartBoards, and Words with Friends, my dad recalls a life very devoid of technology when he was twenty. He remembers rotary dial phones and "party lines" shared between homes, meaning if the neighbor was on the phone, you had to wait to use it. When it came time to place a call, you still had to contact the operator and be patched through.

His "home entertainment" consisted of TV's and record players. To listen to "The Boss," he picked up albums and cassettes. He recalls the ritzy purchase of a television set for his Grandpa M that featured a "remote control" attached to the television by a cord. Any stereo equipment available tended to be large and expensive. No tiny Bose speakers providing surround sound.

There was no such thing as a Personal Computer in his Ohio village in 1976. The first PC he can even recall, the "Timex Sinclair," featured two kilobytes of RAM. Since he was twenty, the field of healthcare has advanced from only providing X-rays to the variety of scans available today.

identify the social or ethical issues, problems, or questions that you think are important, and whether the person you interviewed was positive or negative about the changes in technology

With the advances of cell phones, PCs, personal video cameras and digital cameras, and many other developments over the last 35 years, my dad feels that people are much more aware today. We know more about crimes, news, and the weather forecasting, which he believes would have reduced the impact of the 1978 blizzard, which, according to him, nobody saw coming.

He believes that the wealth of information available for instantaneous access today is a great thing and is not fully utilized, especially in the field of education. He also notes a few disadvantages of today's technological advances, including the increased difficulty of servicing cars now due to embedded computers, reduced sociability (though he is not sure if that is due to living in the city now or whether technology is a culprit), and the ease with which personal information can not only be accessed, but also how easily it is exploited to cause damage. However, overall, my dad believes that the majority of technological advances in the past 35 have improved our way of life, due to the increased access we have to a vast amount of information and our increased ability to interact and stay in touch with one another.