Author:

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Title:

Playing at the Siebel Center, University of Illinois

About the Author:

I grew up in a suburb of Chicago. I was always doing something whether it be sports, music, school, or just hanging out with friends. As I grew up i began wanting things. This is normal for most kids, especially when all of your other friends are getting the "latest and greatest" of all the toys and games. As i grew my desire for wanting the newest gadgets has slowed down yet I notice that all around me most of society is craving better things. Growing up I learned that happiness is not defined through wealth but through friendship and good times. Now I have come to question what happiness or play really lies in. Are kids happy when they are outside playing in a sandbox? Are teenagers happy playing with their friends in a lake? Or does todays society revolve around technology and the the happiness of having the best things? Is one only happy now when they are on a couch playing video games and listening to music? My life so far has been short but I do know a few things. I know that I am happy just reading a book. I am happy just by being with my friends. I am happy to swim in a lake on a hot summer day. Is the rest of society happy by these things? Do these types of play bring them happiness anymore? I am not sure.

Keywords:

Redefining Happiness, Technology, Change, Happy, Siebel Center, Davenport

Abstract:

I find it interesting at what role the building plays on those inside of it. I want to look at and compare what is happening inside the Siebel Center and then a regular building such as Davenport Hall. I will be observing the actions of people inside each building and seeing how they differ. Watching how the building and people interact will help me understand the role of technology to students and others at the University of Illinois.

Initial Exercises:

I am currently thinking hard of what I could be doing to gather information on peoples happiness and technology. I am trying to think of ways to measure happiness. I want to find out why people always want the latest and greatest things in life. Interviews are probably best for this research to be accurate. I feel my topic will become more focused as time goes on. Research on technology and its influences on society will also help me and guide me in a direction for my project.

Susan Brownwell is a big contributor to the field of anthropology. She was very interested in Chinese sport and was a big contributor for the 2008 Olympic games research. She moved to China to attend Beijing University in 1985. She was there to study Chinese language but she also wanted to become a member on the track team. She became a member and instantly starting noting all the unique things about it. One thing she found interesting was the posture of the students attending University compared to that of people not attending, or just normal citizens. She compared to their "body posture" to that of other civilizations and noted the differences that make them unique. Another main idea she covered was the government's role in sports and how it affected it. She used fieldwork to gather information on the subject. She compared different countries and viewed how they are different based on the interaction of the government. A few other things she looked at where the differences of female athletes from different countries and the difference between an athlete and an intellectual person. Susan Brownwell was a large contributor to the field of anthropology. She asked and answered many questions that still exist today.

Ian Borden is a famous anthropologist that studied the role of architecture on skateboarding. Borden used many resources while searching for answers. He used magazines and books to develop a complete understanding of what and where skateboarding came from. He began realizing that architects had begun creating "parks" for the skateboarders to have fun without interfering with society. This was not a solution however because the skateboarders like the "freedom" the board brought to them; they did not want to be confined to one area or park. Borden realized that is what this freedom that gave society the negative look upon skateboarders. Skateboarding has become an, almost, underground society because of the negative attention it receives. Borden realized that skateboarders are "free" and want to be constantly exploring different areas and tricks; they do not want to be confined to a skate park. These ideas are very big and thus the reason that Ian Borden is a good model to follow for any young and aspiring anthropologist or ethnographer.

Question:

Technology exists everywhere around us, as you walk on the quad someone is either on a cell phone, using an Ipod, or on a laptop. How has this increase in technology changed the interaction of students on campus and how has it changed student's involvement in activities?

Plan:

I am going to look in the historical archives to try and see what student life was like before the major increase in technology in students daily lives. I will compare this to public observation of student life today. I will also investigate opportunities students were given before and what students are able to do today. I will try to interview people to understand the importance of technology in there everyday life because I feel like this will help me understand how everyone uses technology.

I will observe the actions of those inside the Siebel Center and compare it to those of the actions within a regular building such as Davenport Hall. I will make observations and try to understand the role of the building on the actions of what is occurring in each building.

Data:

Making Sense of Past Visions of 2000. This article explores the past predictions on what would be happening in the year 2000. I think it would be very interesting to see how accurate people where and how far we exceeded their expectations in some ways. It would be useful to understand how people saw technology advancing to understand how people now days are completely wrapped up in having the best of everything.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who Is the Happiest of Them All?
This is a article that looks at past Nobel peace prize winners and asks the question of which one is/was the happiest. This is a vital question for my research. I feel that it is very hard to define happiness because it differs from person to person. To look at these scholars and try to decide which one is happiest would be a great challenge but I feel it would help immensely in trying to understand what true happiness is. I could then relate this to peoples constant obsession with being happy through technology. This article could bring a lot of valuable information on the idea of happiness.

Discuss:

See attached paper.

EUI Links:

https://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/1847

This article talks about technology and how if we take classes now to learn it we are just wasting our time because technology becomes obsolete so fast. The author talks about "wasting" time learning technology for education because by the time students now become teachers the technology will be completely different. I feel this is important to our study because it demonstrates how people, including the university, are very interested in having the latest and greatest technology.

https://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/1887

This article discusses artificial intelligence which is also a form of technology. The article ran into a lot of barriers on the ethical issues which is a big problem with artificial intelligence. I believe this article could be very helpful in regards to concerning technology and the constant idea of people needing the always be improving it.

Reflect:

Wow. What a process. Just trying to refine my question was a challenge. When you first start you have so many things you want to look at and question. Yet once you start looking at it you realize how much information is truly out there You realize it is not possible to research all the different topics. It was then when I started to refine my question. I kept refining until I had a

question that i believed could be answered and answered with quality. The process of observing the separate buildings was not to hard. It allowed me to just open my eyes and see what was happening in each building.

Recommendations:

When I look at my observations and findings I find it interesting that the world is so wrapped up into technology. Have we lost sight of knowledge? Do we truly need all we think we need to able ourselves to learn? I believe that buildings are fit for different purposes and not all buildings need nor should they have all the same technology. The technology required of that building for what is being done within the building should be the only things installed. Why waste time and money on things that are not necessary to learn.