Thinking Critically About Technology

Learn strategies for thinking more critically about the technologies we use and consume.

1. Technology Pros and Cons

While the various technologies we use each day have many benefits, they also have many challenges and issues.

Make a list of the different technology devices that you use regularly. This could be your phone, a smartwatch, a laptop, or a certain social media site or app:

Now jot down some pros and cons of the technologies that you use regularly. What do you find appealing, beneficial, or enjoyable? What challenges or issues concern you about the technologies you are using?

2. Thinking Critically About Technology

Technologies can have a number of issues with how they are developed, marketed, and used by different audiences. Some major issues that are increasingly being discussed and explored include:

- Lack of diverse representation in the tech sector and among those who develop different technologies
- Issues of bias in different technologies
- Issues of privacy and security

Here are some questions that you can ask about the technologies you use. Thinking critically about technology can help you make more informed decisions regarding your technology usage.

Who created this technology?

- Who created this tool or technology?
- Who runs or invests in this site or tool?
- What is their reputation?

Why was this technology created and what does it do?

- What is the purpose of this tool or site?
- How does this site work?
- What is it asking for from me?
- How much data do I need to supply here?
- What are the security practices of this site?

How do you feel about this technology?

- What am I hoping to get out of using this tool or technology?
- Why do I want to use this?
- Do I feel comfortable using this tool?

Select some of the technologies you use regularly and consider the questions listed above.
What do you know about this technology? How can you learn more?