MEDIA QUESTIONNAIRE

***Step 1: Individual Evaluation (complete under Bellwork)***

1. Time Spent with Media --- Estimate the time you spend each week with these media:
   1. Movies (video, DVD, TV, at the theatre, etc.)
   2. Television (non-movies)
   3. Radio
   4. Reading
   5. Writing
   6. Other (Be sure to identify any media not listed above. Where do newer technologies fit in?)
2. Media Preferences
   1. People use media selectively (they pick out particular things) or unselectively (they interact with whatever comes along) Are you selective or unselective with each medium you use?
   2. Identify the kinds of choices that you make:
      1. Favorite movie genres (adventure, comedy, etc.)
      2. Television (news, talk shows, etc.)
      3. Computer Usage
      4. Reading
      5. Writing
3. Media Habits
   1. How do you usually watch TV (alone/with others; while doing homework; etc.)?
   2. When you see a movie, is it usually alone or with others?
   3. Where and when do you do most of your reading? Describe the environment in detail.
   4. Under what conditions do you usually write? Describe the environment in detail.

***Step 2: Group Evaluation***

1. Time Spent
   1. Rank the media in order of time spent with each.
   2. Is your group oriented more toward viewing, listening, or reading?
2. Preferences
   1. Is your group generally selective or unselective in its use of media?
   2. List the most popular genre each for movies, TV, radio, reading, and writing.
3. Media Habits
   1. Describe any interesting patterns that you find in your group’s media habits?

STUDENT MEDIA MEMOIR

We live in an ever-changing world where technology seems to be passing us by with every new day. It is sometimes hard to keep up with advances made in media. I can remember when *Donkey Kong* and *Frogger* were the most popular video games to play on my Atari game system. Now the graphics of some video games are so real that it’s hard to tell the difference between fantasy and reality.

Years ago kids were told if they sit too close to the TV they’ll damage their eyes. They weren’t discouraged from watching TV; instead they watched as a family. Today kids are told they are watching too much TV and that it will rot their brain. We no longer sit down as family units to do family activities. The computer has replaced TV. Instead of watching TV we’re filling our heads with the high-powered Internet through our computers and cell phones. The information superhighway is far and wide and taking advantage of it is easier than ever.

It is apparent to me that not only is changing technology upon us, but so is the task of keeping up with it. Being immersed in technology certainly does help; however, learning what to do with it is the real key. I believe that as we get older, we being to take media a bit more seriously. At least I did.

In elementary school…My mother would be cooking dinner while my sister and I watched TV and did homework at the same time. After dinner, we’d watch more TV as my mom would read yet another novel. Sunday was cleaning day. We’d listen to WNEW-FM, which used to be a classic rock station. It has become ritual for me to listen to this type of music whenever I clean. By the time I got to high school, the shows had changed, but the routine was the same.

As I grew older and went through new experiences and met new people, my tastes began to change. I had a friend who wanted to be a screenwriter, and we would watch movies together and then discuss them. Movies tend to affect us powerfully by getting a point across in a way nothing else can. In my mid-twenties, I decided to further my education by going back to school. It was there that I met teachers who encouraged me to seek out more truths. I started to become involved in what was really going on in the world around me and how it affects my life and my future. I realized that it never stops; the world continues to change and the only thing to do is pay attention.

Media are all around us. It is the individual’s responsibility to decide what to do with them. We can take them at face value for entertainment or we can use them to educate ourselves. With the ongoing development of a media culture, it seems we have no choice but to move forward. “Life moves quickly. If you don’t stop to notice, you might miss it.”

***Group Discussion (be ready to share out)***

1. How do the author’s media choices reflect her changing interests or those around her?
2. What did the author learn about media as she got older? What conclusions does she come to about the role of technology in her life?
3. Reread the author’s final statement about technology and individual responsibility. What options does she offer for confronting the media? What other options do you believe we have?