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Technology Gives Me a Way In

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TYPE
NARRATIVE
PERSUASIVE

Technology is different for me than it is for most people my age. Many teenagers are taken hostage by an overwhelming need to be connected twenty-four seven. This need for constant access to social input leaves many of my peers disconnected from the world around them. In my life as a teenager, technology is a lifeline into the reality many seem determined to ignore. I type to communicate, and technology in my world is used in a way that is unlike that of many. I share my journey with technology in hopes that others my age will learn to open themselves to a new world of technology where voices like mine will be heard.

I am autistic, and although I talk some, my verbal output doesn't reflect my thoughts in their entirety. Not unlike my peers, I depend on technology to share my opinions. However, the platform and audience vary greatly. I don't need my thoughts and feelings broadcast on social media. It is not a part of my world nor does it affect my view of myself. Perhaps

this is just another factor that sets me a part from others my age . The way I see it, technology helps me join the real world while for others it creates a way out. What I need is to open communication with my family. Typing to communicate allows me the opportunity to do that. Their dedication to my happiness never falters, and I have welcomed the chance to appreciate them with typed expressions of gratitude.

Many people these days spend more time looking at screens than they do interacting with people in person. Faces illuminated by shiny devices leave the world glowing with disconnected people wandering through life totally unaware of anything not happening on screen. I know it seems like an autistic mind is not really turned on like a typical person's is. I assure you this notion could not be more wrong. We are very much aware of what's going on around us and want nothing more than to be a part of the conversation. Under the pressure to participate in conversation, thoughts may come out in fragments. For example, thinking a full sentence, yet saying only a word. Through the use of technology, I am able to express myself with the depth that more adequately corresponds to my thoughts.

Imagine waking up every day knowing that you'll spend all of it unable to express yourself, the people around you at a loss for a way to make a solid connection. In my autistic world, technology gives me a way in, while my peers use it as a way out. If you have the ability to say what you are thinking, I encourage you to not let yourself take it for granted by wasting the chance to tell the people in your life what is on your heart and mind.

The truth about technology is that while doing its share of harm, it also does a great deal of good. There are voices to be heard, should you choose the right path to listen.