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### Critical Reflection #2: Are we “Alone Together”

In Sherry Turkle’s book, “Alone Together”, she asserts that the advance of technology is changing the perception of social relationships. Her chapter 8 title “Always On” refers to the fact that people of all ages are constantly attached and on some sort of electronic device such as phones, iPads, apple watches, etc. This idea of always being connected to each other may seem like a good idea in theory because they have fast and easy means of communication, but the problem is people use the technology as a solution to their loneliness and escape from reality. Personally, I often fall victim to this because when I first got to campus, I was somewhat lonely because I didn’t know much people. So instead of going out and forming new relationships, I chose to text my friends to get on the game to play 2k where I was an NBA basketball player not a bored college student. Turkle also coins the term “multi-lifing” claiming that “We have moved from multi-tasking to multi-lifing.” I have to wholeheartedly agree with this because like the example she used with the married man playing the game Second Life, I witness my two little sisters come back from school and instantly hop on the game “The Sims 4”. I didn’t make too much of it but after reading the concerns of Turkle, I fear that people are just as concerned if not more about their online life and identity versus they’re real one. Her chapter 9 title “Growing Up Tethered” because of the fact that children at young ages are receiving and being connected to technology. Her point instantly has merit because I didn’t get my first phone until seventh grade, and didn’t get my first iPhones, which was an iPhone 5, until tenth grade. However, youngest sister

had an iPhones 6s plus while she was in fourth grade and still complains to me to buy her a new phone because her friends got iPhones 11s. I believe they are positives of this like always being able to know if people are safe but Turkle argues the quick onset of phones and texting has decreased independence. Since we are so tethered to each other at a young age, we don't have the ability to build upon ourselves because we are always relying on others in all situations. I know whenever I get some sort of news, I instantly find somebody to share it with online through technology even before even processing it. This supports her claim that people "need to be connected in order to feel like themselves...They cultivate a collaborative self." Turkle isn't saying that working with others is bad but that always being connected, especially socially not personally will create a future society of people who aren't self-sufficient or independent. Overall, I agree with the majority of her argument because they're all applicable to my life. People have so many "interactions" with each other through screens instead of face to face so even though we're actually alone in reality, we have the perception of being "together".