My generation was one of the first to integrate digital technology into everyday functions; my generation was able to "take for granted" its knowledge of digital literacy and its familiarity with unique cyber platforms, whereas my parents' generation was newly introduced to these gizmos and gadgets. The advent of digital technology has brought about the various platforms that I, along with many other individuals of my cohort, utilize on a daily basis. These applications and websites include those that are both informational and communicational. The development of such platforms can be attributed to exponential functional growth and increased availability of the mediums through which we communicate with one another now - the plethora of cellphone, laptop, and camera models and brands. Consequently, a gradual yet noticeable social revolution has taken place within my generation. Through this social revolution, there has been development and increased need for technological literacy - it is through navigating with these digital devices that I am able to communicate and connect with the society around me, and am able to adjust to the social changes and movements that have resulted from the introduction of these cyber platforms. My encounters with such platforms serve as testimonies of my own evolution as a writer. In other words, my experiences with technology induced the development of my technological literacy.

The most noticeable changes about technological media over the previous decades are those relating to appearance and functionality. Initially technology's function was primarily to communicate factual information. Tools, such as blood, juice, or colored minerals, to make haphazard symbols, and later, cave paintings were first developed and prioritized. Although this was one of the first ways humans communicated with one another, it was not entirely effective because of the lack of standardization of the symbols - some symbols meant different things to different people. With the development of structured language, though, people were able to

communicate with one another efficiently. As humans slowly began to use early handwritten documents and manuscripts, they also began to utilize tools such as grand calligraphy pens, brushes and ink; during this period, very few people had the ability to read - only religious or wealthy people had that ability. Centuries later, with the invention of the printing press, a mass dissemination of books and information allowed for book knowledge to be accessed by an even greater number of people in the population. This was the generation that my parents grew up in. Within this time period, people were able to demonstrate their expertise and communicate a wide range of ideas to a diverse group and amount of people, although each book came at an expense. However, computers paved the way for a more instantaneous connection between people, especially among my peers and I; people were able to share information as soon as they logged onto the internet. Websites and blogs allowed for both educational and personal information to be freely dispersed from any individual who wished to contribute. There was no need for a formal intermediary, such as a publisher, to accomplish this task.

With its vast functional advancements, technology began to be increasingly used for social purposes. Cave paintings illustrated either an important warning or a certain history. With the introduction of ink and paper, handwritten letters were used by people to speak to other people. Telegraphs and typewriters alleviated the burdens of frequent writers - they no longer had to write by hand. The time required to compose a message was steadily decreasing with almost every other advancement in technology. Eventually, in my parents' generation, telephones became a common sight in households, and people no longer needed to spend hours drafting letters. Communication had become even more instantaneous. However, many have noted that the greatest reduction in the effort required to communicate occurred right before my generation with the invention of computers and cell-phones. E-mail, instant messaging, blogs, and other

social media tools allowed people to be not only connected to one another by words, but also by videos, pictures, and graphics.

In recent years, computers have played a vital role in circulating information and connecting people. However, there are now websites and cyber tools that profoundly combine the two functions. My early encounter with such a website had greatly influenced the way I view these cyber tools and how my technological literacy narrative is shaped. When I first found Soompi Forums, I was thirteen years old. By that age, I had spent a considerable amount of time navigating on the internet and conducting random searches. Soompi was an online forum that contained a diverse group of subsections covering topics such as food, Asian dramas, love and relationships, anime, fan-fiction, art, cars, music, beauty (makeup, hair tips, and etc.), health, and many others. It was an open space for diverse people to share whatever knowledge they had about any of these topics. However, I also realized that it was used as a therapeutic support system for many - people often shared their problems and advised others about certain issues. In certain ways, I viewed Soompi forums as a community, where people would both encourage and discourage one another. However, there were admins who would filter out any profanity or rude language and ban the accounts of people who frequently caused trouble. My exposure to this website inspired me to form my own opinions and learn more about the world because there was a vast amount of useful information being shared about every topic. Although I never contributed to Soompi, I would always absorb whatever information that it gave to me, especially any advice about personal issues. This newfound insight and my developing opinions began to give shape to the identity that I would form many years later. My exposure to the creative poems and fan-fictions of the other users on Soompi also gave me an avenue through which I would

begin to form my own creative way of linking words together. The inner world of thoughts that Soompi had instilled in me later manifested years later on Tumblr.

Soompi forums allowed me to see the internet as dynamic. The forum was a social influence - it was interactive and sometimes it provoked creativity and sparked ideas. Years later, when I discovered Tumblr, I applied all of Soompi forums' "teachings" - I customized my Tumblr to represent me by reblogging graphics, videos, and songs that captured my interest and described my personality. Moreso, however, whenever I needed to, I would vent on Tumblr by writing poems and narratives about my situations and moods. Soompi forums taught me that it was okay to speak up and express my inner most thoughts, especially since it exposed me to many different viewpoints that I took bits and pieces of. This eventually helped me develop my distinct style of writing that even my teachers recognized throughout high-school. My repeated encounters with Soompi forums and Tumblr helped me build my technological and visual literacies, and without these platforms, I would not have been well-versed in the different online resources and tools that are available today.

Websites combining social interaction, graphics, sound, and information, such as Soompi and Tumblr, are the predecessors of greater technological innovations that are to become widespread in the near future. Within my generation, I am already beginning to see greater utilization of these platforms. Thus, there is a growing need to be technologically and visually literate. Admission processes are also evident of this fact. Graduate schools and recruiters are using interactive platforms similar to Soompi and Tumblr, such as LinkedIn and Wordpress, to search for ideal candidates who demonstrate both high qualifications for their positions and technologically literacy. At this rate, I will not be surprised if resumes see the end of their fate

over the next few years. After all, technology is dynamic and to keep up, one needs to be proficient in technological literacy.