

**NMAT-G 411: Spring 2016**  
**Determinism/s**  
**Instructor: Paul Cook**

**Technological determinism** is the theory that “new technologies set the conditions for social change and progress” (Miller 3). In other words, on this view, new technologies create the “conditions of possibility” necessary for new ways of being, communicating, living, and working to emerge.

For instance, would we have HBO or *The Walking Dead* without the invention of the television? Doubtful. Would we have “Facebook stalking” had the computer never been invented? What about the microprocessor or the light bulb?

Grab a thinking- and conversation-partner, and in the space provided below each icon, jot down some concrete ways of being, communicating, living, and working that have been formed or “made possible” by the technology pictured. Be creative and try to look past the most obvious ones. Also, once you’ve written down 2 or 3 for each category, see if you and your partner can trace out the development or evolution. How did we get from “point A” to “point B”?