**Class Participation Assignment**

We no longer see the interpersonal big picture. Many of us are losing the ability to interact meaningfully with others, face-to-face, because we opt for on-demand rather than physical contact, relying on technology to mediate our thoughts, words, and deeds. Without interpersonal intelligence, we are never really sure of our roles, responses, and emotions, especially when we spend significant time each day consuming media and using technology.

First, take an inventory of media appliances and technology devices (for communication) in your home and workplace/school. Under the heading “inventory” list at least three devices.

Second, create separate headings of “utility”, “time”, and “impact”. Under each heading provide answers to every part of each question below. Be sure to provide specific examples as you answer the questions. You have three devices in your inventory so it is expected that each will be included when answering “utility”, “time” and “impact”.

* **Utility**
* Which ones are efficient (do not compare devices or indicate “most” or “least” efficient)? Give a specific example to explain their efficiency.
* Which ones are intrusive? Why?
* Which ones are used primarily for a) entertainment, b) information, c) communication? Give an example of each use.
* **Time**
* Which ones save time and which waste time?
* How, if at all, is time saved and how do you spend that spare time – in real or in virtual environments (explain)?
* **Impact**
* Which ones influence relationships at home and at work or school, for better or worse?
* Which ones blur boundaries between home and work or school?

Finally, estimate how much money you spend each month operating or using all of the appliances and devices, including monthly fees or service charges, upgrades and accessories, and so on?

For example:

**Utility**

My cell phone is efficient. For example, I am able to ….

*Credits to Michael Bugeja – author of Inter-Personal Divide: The search for community in a technological age.*