The topic of digital media and its subdomains (primarily, email, social media, and texting) is one of sometimes contentious debate. Many experts and non-experts can easily acknowledge the positive effects of technology, but many still grapple with the discussion of its drawbacks, particularly on social interaction and self-perception. For example, in her acclaimed TED talk, social psychologist Sherry Turkle argues that increasing dependence on technology has changed the way we view others, but most importantly, ourselves. She asserts that, while digital communication has the power to affirm interpersonal relationships, vehicles for that communication—particularly texting—often increase our sense of isolation and self-awareness.

Meanwhile, in her mini-lecture titled “How the Internet Enables Intimacy,” technology psychologist Stefana Broadbent attempts to explain how the Internet Age has made communication in different settings possible.

What are these women (along with myriad other experts) getting at, and where can we help clarify the discussion?

For this essay, I would like you to make an argument about any controversy surrounding digital media. Your argument could address one of the following aspects:

- Responsible use of social media
- Effects of social media on self-perception
- How texting impacts certain relationships
- Most or least valuable uses of social media

This is only a brief list of many foci regarding digital media. Regardless of your focus, your essay should make a clear argument and provide detailed support. While you do not need to address the counterargument in detail, you should mention it in your introduction or conclusion.

Logistics of Assignment

Your essay should be 850-1200 words and formatted according to MLA or APA guidelines. You will need to include at least three outside sources. You may use the films and articles discussed in class, or you can include research of your own. Doing your own research will allow for more flexibility with your topic and is encouraged. Proper in-text citation—distinguishing between direct quotation and paraphrase—is crucial.

The rough draft for this assignment (peer-editing) will be due on ________ and is worth 25 points. The final draft will be due on ________ and is worth 175 points.

Your essay will be graded using the following rubric:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Very proficient</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Some proficiency</th>
<th>Lacks Proficiency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argument: focus, follow-through, and complexity</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>34 points</td>
<td>28 points</td>
<td>22 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization: clearly defined introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion; sentence- and paragraph-level transitions help create fluidity; conclusion synthesizes research and claims</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>22 points</td>
<td>19 points</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support: ample, relevant, and integrated details that help illustrate the thesis</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>24 points</td>
<td>18 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources: relevant and representative and incorporated using proper citation methods; meets minimum requirements (see prompt)</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>9 points</td>
<td>6 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLA citation: accurate in-text citations and Works Cited page; student uses signal phrases to introduce new sources</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>22 points</td>
<td>19 points</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and sentence variety</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>18 points</td>
<td>16 points</td>
<td>14 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics: spelling and proofreading</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>18 points</td>
<td>16 points</td>
<td>14 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional notes:

Rough draft: _____________________/25

Final draft: _____________________/175

Total score: _____________________/200