**HSB4U Chapter 4: The Impact of Technology on the Family**

**Reading 1: The Influence of Technology in the Home** (p. 115)

Mass culture (definition):

1. What happened after the introduction of electricity into the family home?
2. Give an example of a more recent technology in our society that has been affecting your (or your family’s) values or expectations in a similar way.
3. The term “mass culture” refers to developments that began in the 1920s. Given the introduction of digital technology and social media, has our world changed to the extent that we should come up with a new term to describe it? If so, what? If not, why is the old term still acceptable?

**Reading 2: Measuring the Impact of Computer Communication Technology** (p. 117-119)

Computer communication technology (definition):

1. The author states that computer communication technology has made working so much more efficient that “theoretically, we should have more free time.” Do you think it actually does give us more free time? Or just new stresses? Explain your answer.
2. What is supposedly happening to families and social relationships because of new communication technology?
3. Is this a concern for you? Do you see this happening with your family (or any families you know)? How so?

**Information Technology and the Family** (p. 119-120 case study)

Infomated households (definition):

1. Summarize the three observations made by Dr. English-Lueck. Do these things apply to your own families? If so, how (give specific examples)?
2. What do you think is meant by the statement: “Infomated families do not simply use technology – they live in ecosystems of technology”?

Follow up: Would you describe your family as living in an ecosystem of technology?

1. Dr. English-Lueck believes that “the infomated family represents a new kind of family dynamic” and that “this is neither a good nor a bad thing…she simply recognizes it as a new development.”

Do you think this new family dynamic is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?