

# Neil Postman Quotes

*Ideas, Technology, People, Television, Thinking, News, Mean, World, Culture,  
Mind, Believe, Mistake, Book, Giving, Children, Knowing, Photography, Doe,  
Simple, Entertainment*

Children enter school as question marks and leave as periods.

~Neil Postman

If parents wish to preserve childhood for their own children, they must conceive of parenting as an act of rebellion against culture

~Neil Postman

It is not necessary to conceal anything from a public insensible to contradiction and narcotized by technological diversions.

~Neil Postman

If students get a sound education in the history, social effects and psychological biases of technology, they may grow to be adults who use technology rather than be used by it.

~Neil Postman

We are more naive than those of the Middle Ages, and more frightened, for we can be made to believe almost anything.

~Neil Postman

Everything we know has its origins in questions. Questions, we might say, are the principal intellectual instruments available to human beings.

~Neil Postman

At its best, schooling can be about how to make a life, which is quite different from how to make a living.

~Neil Postman

People in distress will sometimes prefer a problem that is familiar to a solution that is not.

~Neil Postman

Once you have learned to ask questions - relevant and appropriate and

substantial questions - you have learned how to learn and no one can keep you from learning whatever you want or need to know.

~Neil Postman

I believe I am not mistaken in saying that Christianity is a demanding and serious religion. When it is delivered as easy and amusing, it is another kind of religion altogether.

~Neil Postman

It is a mistake to suppose that any technological innovation has a one-sided effect. Every technology is both a burden and a blessing; not either-or, but this-and-that.

~Neil Postman

The making of adaptable, curious, open, questioning people has nothing to do with vocational training and everything to do with humanistic and scientific studies.

~Neil Postman

There is no escaping from ourselves. The human dilemma is as it has always been, and we solve nothing fundamental by cloaking ourselves in technological glory.

~Neil Postman

The shock of twentieth-century technology numbed our brains and we are just beginning to notice the spiritual and social debris that our technology has strewn about us.

~Neil Postman

We can make the trains run on time but if they are not going where we want them to go, why bother?

~Neil Postman

If politics is like show business, then the idea is not to pursue

excellence, clarity or honesty but to appear as if you are, which is another matter altogether.

~Neil Postman

An educated mind is practiced in the uses of reason, which inevitably leads to a skeptical outlook.

~Neil Postman

Computers are merely ingenious devices to fulfill unimportant functions. The computer revolution is an explosion of nonsense.

~Neil Postman

Public schooling does not serve a public; it creates a public.

~Neil Postman

Technology always has unforeseen consequences, and it is not always clear, at the beginning, who or what will win, and who or what will lose.

~Neil Postman

We do not measure a culture by its output of undisguised trivialities but by what it claims as significant.

~Neil Postman

You can only photograph a fragment of the here and now. The photograph presents the world as object; language, the world as idea.

~Neil Postman

The written word endures, the spoken word disappears

~Neil Postman

Remember: in order for a perception to change one must be frustrated in one's actions or change one's purpose.

~Neil Postman

TV serves us most usefully when presenting junk-entertainment; it serves us most ill when it co-opts serious modes of discourse - news, politics, science, education, commerce, religion.

~Neil Postman

Certainty abolishes hope, and robs us of renewal.

~Neil Postman

I am not a Luddite. I am suspicious of technology. I am perfectly aware of its benefits, but I also try to pay attention to some of the negative effects.

~Neil Postman

I mean to suggest that without a transcendent and honorable purpose, schooling must reach its finish, and the sooner we are done with it, the better.

~Neil Postman

The effects of technology are always unpredictable. But they are not always inevitable.

~Neil Postman

[M]ost of our daily news is inert, consisting of information that gives us something to talk about but cannot lead to any meaningful action. (68).

~Neil Postman

Printing links the present with forever. It carries personal identity into realms unknown.

~Neil Postman

What the advertiser needs to know is not what is right about the product but what is wrong about the buyer.

~Neil Postman

. . . Americans are the best entertained and quite likely the least well-informed people in the Western world.

~Neil Postman

It is inescapable that every culture must negotiate with technology, whether it does so intelligently or not. A bargain is struck in which technology giveth and technology taketh away.

~Neil Postman

Our priests and presidents, our surgeons and lawyers, our educators and newscasters need worry less about satisfying the demands of their discipline than the demands of good showmanship.

~Neil Postman

In Russia, writers with serious grievances are arrested, while in America they are merely featured on television talk shows, where all that is arrested is their development.

~Neil Postman

Watching television requires no skills and develops no skills. That is why there is no such thing as remedial television-watching.

~Neil Postman

Typography fostered the modern idea of individuality, but it destroyed the medieval sense of community and integration.

~Neil Postman

Nothing could be more misleading than the idea that computer technology introduced the age of information. The printing press began that age, and we have not been free of it since.

~Neil Postman

A metaphor is not an ornament. It is an organ of perception. Through metaphors, we see the world as one thing or another.

~Neil Postman

As a culture moves from orality to writing to printing to televising, its ideas of truth move with it.

~Neil Postman

For the message of television as metaphor is not only that all the world is a stage but that the stage is located in Las Vegas, Nevada.

~Neil Postman

Voting is the next-to-last refuge of the politically impotent. The last refuge, of course, is giving your opinion to a pollster.

~Neil Postman

The television commercial is not at all about the character of products to be consumed. It is about the character of the consumers of products.  
(128)

~Neil Postman

Build an "inclusive narrative" that goes beyond race, class, religion, etc., so that all may participate in the "the great debates".

~Neil Postman

The idea of taking what people call the 'entertainment culture' as a focus of study, including historical perspective, is not a bad idea.

~Neil Postman

The price of maintaining membership in the establishment is unquestioning acceptance of authority.

~Neil Postman

When media make war against each other, it is a case of world-views in collision.

~Neil Postman

A definition is the start of an argument, not the end of one.

~Neil Postman

By itself photography cannot deal with the unseen, the remote, the internal, the abstract, it does not speak of Man, only of a man ; not of Tree, only a tree.

~Neil Postman

Reading is the scourge of childhood because, in a sense, it creates adulthood.

~Neil Postman



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