

Screen Masters Answer Key

Because this activity requires students to **generate their own questions**, answers will vary. Below are **sample questions and model answers** to guide expectations:

Sample Question 1: Why does the author compare phone alerts to “gatekeepers of comfort and calm”?

- Model Answer: The author suggests people’s emotions depend on their devices. For example, when Wi-Fi is unavailable, people feel anxious, showing technology controls their mood.

Sample Question 2: How do advertisers and app designers take advantage of human behavior?

- Model Answer: They design notifications and streaks to keep users online longer. The text states, “Advertisers and app designers... keep people engaged, sometimes for hours,” showing deliberate manipulation.

Sample Question 3: What does the author mean by “the tools we create inevitably shape the kind of people we become”?

- Model Answer: This means technology doesn’t just serve us, it changes our habits and identities. For example, constant phone checking reshapes attention spans and priorities, showing that humans adapt to the technology they use.

Teacher Notes:

- Strong student work should:
 - Ask **“why/how” questions** rather than surface-level ones.
 - Support answers with **direct references** from the essay.
 - Show awareness of themes like control, manipulation, and human dependency.