

Paradox Of Connection Answer Key

Sample Critical Response (Model)

- *Answer:* I agree with the author that technology can sometimes make people lonelier. The essay says, *"the more devices we own to stay connected, the more we struggle with loneliness."* I have noticed this when my friends and I spend more time texting than actually meeting in person. Although social media lets us share updates, it often feels like people are only showing the best parts of their lives, which can create pressure or sadness. At the same time, I think technology can be helpful when distance makes it hard to see people. Overall, I believe technology is useful but can never fully replace real human contact.

Teacher Notes

- Students' responses will vary. Accept answers that **use textual evidence** and show a clear personal reflection.
- Encourage students to avoid overly general statements (e.g., "Technology is bad") and instead make **specific connections**.
- This task builds skills in **text-to-self connections** and strengthens **critical thinking** by requiring students to position themselves in relation to an argument.
- Extension: Ask students to brainstorm one **practical way** technology could be redesigned to reduce loneliness (e.g., features that encourage face-to-face interactions).