

Assigned: Wednesday, September 6, 2006
Due: First draft: Monday, September 11, 2006
Final draft: Friday, September 15, 2006
Submission: Pogo's inbox AND hardcopy
Filename: Lost####.doc
Format: Word document, 10 point times roman font, double spaced.
Length: 3 pages

Topic: Choose a skill or technology that was essential to life in 1700, 1800, 1900, or 1950, but which is an obsolete "lost art" today. Why was this technology significant in the past? What technological advance made it obsolete? What was better about the newer technology? Why wasn't the new technology adopted sooner? How were workers in related industries affected? What jobs have ceased to exist? What new careers have replaced them? How were non-specialists affected? How did the adoption of the newer technology affect the normal family structure? How did the new technology affect consumer habits? Is the old technology still being used for *any* function in society today, or it is completely lost? Did the technology affect everybody, or only Americans, or only first-world citizens?

If you can't answer most of these questions for your chosen technology, then you should consider choosing a different technology. Your paper doesn't need to answer all of these questions in equal detail. Some potential topics include changes in the technology of food production, food distribution, clothing manufacture, transportation, finance, education, communication, housing, and many others.

You need to demonstrate the *necessity* of the technology during its heyday, and discuss the advances that have replaced it. Comment on any accompanying technological advances that were necessary for this art to be lost.

Rough Thesis: The replacement of technology A by technology B changed the way people lived and worked. In particular, it changed this, that, and the other thing.

Bibliography: As needed. You need a source for each fact you cite. You may cite printed material. The only web material you may cite for this paper is wikipedia. Use your Pocket Keys to help you format your bibliography.

An example:

Electric lighting replaced candles and oil lamps

→ Notice how specific this topic is. I am not talking about all possible uses of electricity.

My rough first thoughts before I begin writing:

- Even prehistoric people had lighting
- Industrial revolution → factories → like big caves → workers needed light. I need to find out what year this happened.
- Industrial advances required increased mining to obtain raw materials. Mines are an obvious place where the creation of artificial light would result in increased productivity.
- Problems with candles/gas/oil lights: Brightness, safety, duration, cost to replace
- Required secondary technologies: Transmission system (long wires), dynamos, fuses, meters for payment.
- Negative economic impact: candlemakers. But, not that many people directly lost their jobs when electric lighting was introduced.
- Positive impacts: workers in power plants, laying wires, etc.
 - General Electric: formed to support lighting, not all electric use! I need to check my facts on this
- With electric lights, workers could stay later (esp. in winter)
 - long term impact: work day shifted to start later than sunrise.
- Stores could stay open later.
- Families could do things after dark, and even poorer people could entertain after dark.
 - increase in community?
- Labor Unions began to meet after dark
 - long term impact: created larger middle class, redistribution of wealth, new consumer class (affects virtually all industries!). Better look this up.

Sample Assignment #2 (based on *The Time Machine*)

According to H. G. Wells, ...

Overview: In *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells reveals many of his personal beliefs about human society. These include:

- the purpose of human social structures
- the fate of human social structures
- the value of human social structures
- the role of technology in human biological development
- the role of technology in human societal development
- the impact of the environment on human societal development
- the impact of human society on the environment

What do you think Wells was trying to say to his readers? You should pick only *one* of the above topics (or, with my approval, choose another altogether) and demonstrate Wells' position with carefully chosen evidence from the text. You should be aware that not all of the suggested topics are equally difficult.

Ultimately, Wells wrote to *persuade* his readers of something. As part of your thesis, you must demonstrate specifically how he was trying to *influence* readers of *The Time Machine*.

Length: Papers may not be longer than 4 pages.