Think, Pair, Square, and Share Technique: What is Technology?
Freshman Composition I

*Contributed by Professor Debra Guild, PhD*

Instructions:

1. Timed Activity: Individually, list all the words that come to mind when you hear the word *technology*. You have five minutes.

2. Get together in groups of two or three and compare and contrast lists. How many words/items were similar, different?

3. How many items on the list were electronic or electric? Try to challenge the idea: Technologies are machines. Is it true? Can technologies be non-electronic and nonelectric?

4. Consider the excerpt from Langdon Winner’s book, *Autonomous Technology*. Now compose a different list—again in five minutes—listing all tangible objects that are NOT non-electronic and nonelectric. Discuss why and how these items can be considered technology.

5. Write a journal response to Winner’s claim that real technology includes apparatuses, technical activities or social organizations. Choose one of the three categories, and discuss how you interact with that kind of technology on a daily basis. If you choose an apparatus, you must discuss one that is not powered by electricity, which includes batteries. In the end, how has Winner changed your view of technology?