

## Summarize Leo Marx's view of progress and relate to one real world example Word Count: 493

1. <b>Claim</b>	claim is appropriate to the assignment, is clear and precise, and guides the entire text.
2. <b>Analysis</b>	details mentioned apply to the claim.
3. <b>Information</b>	information is correct and relevant; quotes advance argument and are "well framed."
4. <b>Frames</b>	first sentence(s) clearly and precisely summarize claim; final sentence reprises the claim.
5. <b>Development</b>	second paragraph uses information from the first paragraph; key terms are reused.
6. <b>Signposts</b>	use of explicit comparatives ("in contrast"; "similarly"; "however"; etc.); avoid "also."
7. <b>Paragraphs</b>	sentences flow logically; no digressions or repetitions; transitions link paragraphs clearly.
8. <b>Sentences</b>	meaning is clear and comprehensible; vocabulary is precise; sentences have varied structure.
9. <b>Mechanics</b>	document has been proofread for grammar, spelling, and reader's "pet peeves."
10. <b>Format</b>	document follows the required format (font, spacing, length, identifying information, etc.).
11. <b>Extras</b>	novel claim; unexpected evidence; surprising analysis; adept turn-of-phrase.

In Leo Marx's "Does Improved Technology Mean Progress?", Marx hypothesizes that we as a race of peoples have forgotten what our original goal of progress was intended to be. He states that progress in technology was once intended to further the human race socially, spiritually, politically, and intellectually, also stating that this idea of progress in technology has been overshadowed by the desire of individual men to make a profit on the technology they create. Marx states Benjamin Franklin, inventor of the "Franklin stove", denied a patent on the stove that would allow him to monopolize on the profits of the product. Marx hails Franklin as an individual who was associated with creating technology, yet approached the process with limited self-interest. On the contrary, Marx tells us that technological progress, when not to forward the human race, can have disastrous consequences, "It is striking to note how many of the fearful events of our time involve the destructive use or misuse, the unforeseen consequences, or the disastrous malfunction of modern technologies: Hiroshima and the nuclear threat; the damage inflicted upon the environment by advanced industrial societies; and the spectacular accidents like Three Mile Island" (Marx 33). One can infer that Marx is skeptical of the validity of the progress that modern technology is making, and hints that we as the reader should be as well. Overall, Marx has indicated to us that progress in technology was originally intended to forward the human race, but as individuals began to exploit the technologies for profit and destruction, the idea of progress has been distorted, if not lost altogether.

In today's culture, smartphone usage would fall into place as an example of self-interested technology, supporting his argument. Cell phones were first introduced in society to help those who led a busy, mobile lifestyle to communicate. However, once larger companies began to produce these phones, the human race became more interconnected, but the companies were starting to manipulate the technology to turn a profit, leading to modern smartphones. Individuals with smartphones will often pull them out during a time that they are unsure what to say, making them less likely to communicate. A large majority of applications on these smartphones serve no purpose other than to waste time that could otherwise be spent reading, being outdoors, or talking to others. Companies like Zynga and King Digital, producers of apps such as Farmville and Candy Crush, include micro transactions on their applications that allow for users to have instant gratification for a small fee. Companies such as these serve only to gain a profit, not to progress mankind socially, intellectually, or otherwise. Marx would state that these such "technologies" were blasphemous and how we rarely even think about how this technology affects our development as a species. Finally, smartphones limit social interaction and enable large companies to turn a profit, further proving Marx's hypothesis that technologies have lost their interest in the progression of man as a species.