

## DISPUTATION CXXXVII

September 24, 2015

Dear Peucinians,

Last week we confirmed the supreme authority of the paternalistic state. This week, on the eve of the release of Apple's [newest shiny thing](#), we will convene to discuss the following...

### **RESOLVED: PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY HARMS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD**

**Affirmative: Jonathan Swift '16**

**Negative: Robert Francis "Bobby" Kennedy '16**

The digital revolution has fundamentally changed the way in which a large portion of humanity now communicates. You're probably reading this electronic mail on a smartphone, tablet, or computer device. Friends separated by oceans can virtually see each other's faces, lovers can send heart emoji's to each other, and mothers everywhere can remind their kids to call home via a well timed Facebook "poke." Indeed, personal technology allows us to share our life's most intimate moments in real time with the entire world, provided that the internet signal is strong enough.

However, a growing number of skeptics share the concern that personal technology - instead of connecting us - actually harms our relationship with the world. The harmless snapchat selfie sent to a few "best friends" or a quick text message at the dinner table may amount to something more insidious. Is there something lost from a family reunion when a smart phone is thrown into the mix? By taking thousands of photos, do we cheapen the current moment, as it can be easily accessed with the touch of a screen? What do we miss when looking down at our happy little glowing rectangles?

We are again faced with the question: *how ought we live our lives?*

**7:30 PM Thursday September 24th (Thursday)**  
**Massachusetts Hall Faculty Room (Top Floor)**  
**Semi-Formal Attire**

Sincerely,  
Αἴαντος

*Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus*