**“Turn Off the Phone (and the Tension)”**

**by Jenna Wortham *New York Times***

With the exception of the chart, all questions are to be completed on a separate piece of looseleaf. Be sure to use complete sentences.

**INFERENCING – read beyond the lines of the text to figure out the answers to these questions:**

1. Word: reprieve

Sentence: Eventually, the anxiety passed. I started to see my lack of a digital connection as a **reprieve**.

On looseleaf, explain what *you* think the meaning of the word **reprieve** is. Also state how you were able to figure it out.

1. Why did the author turn her phone off at the house party?
2. What is a “digital link”?
3. “But for many people, smartphones and social networks have become lifelines — **appendages** that they are rarely without.” Explain how a cell phone can be like an “appendage”.
4. “There is a lot of pressure in our culture to be an extrovert”. What is meant by this statement?

**CONNECTING**

1. Do you feel that your life is “overcommunicated”? Why or why not?
2. Complete the following chart as it relates to your life:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electronic Device**  For one complete day, track the amount of minutes you spend on each of these devices. Be sure that you are tracking an average day in your life. | **Minutes per day spent on device** |
| Cell Phone |  |
| Video Game Console |  |
| Computer |  |
| Other: |  |