



Thank You

November 21, 2018

When I was younger my dad would take me to his cousin's gas station and his cousin Don Lee would come out and service our car. Do you remember pulling up to actual "service stations?" Those days are over. Do you remember talking on the phone with your loved ones, not texting or liking their status on social media, but actually talking? Those days are few and far between. Some of the things we use to do we don't do anymore, and that's unfortunate. On the other hand, some things we do every day we can't imagine not doing.

Could you go a week without your cell phone? Think about it? A full week. Seven days. One hundred and sixty eight hours. Before you answer I want to take you back to the days before we had cell phones. Let's go back twenty years to 1998.

If it were 1998 could you go a week without a camera, a cam-recorder, radio, portable music player, a book, a calculator, a flashlight, a telephone, a map, a leveler, a compass, a scanner, video games, a watch, an alarm clock, a timer, a notepad, a newspaper, a photo album, rolodex, notepad, a computer or mail.

The smartphone has replaced many of these items. Have smart phones made us smarter? Has technology made us more intelligent? Do you think children are smarter today than they were twenty or thirty years ago? First, we should define the word smart. What's your definition? The opposite of smart is not dumb, but ignorant. Meaning a person simply doesn't know. Are you smart or ignorant?

There is a gentleman in town who is a huge Florida Gator fan and I think he drives a semi truck for a living. I am sure he knows things about driving an eighteen wheeler that I don't know. There are many people who know things that I don't know. Allen knows things about eye glasses that I don't know and Amber knows things about baking that I don't know. We are all intelligent in different areas and ignorant in other areas.

In education we measure academic intelligence. Our educational system has stifled the creativity in children. In education the child should be academically proficient by a certain age. If they are not we label them a failure.

One of our children started walking at eight months and the other at thirteen months. One child started talking before the other (and he hasn't stopped), one was potty trained earlier and so on. We never called one a genius and the other one slow.

The people we admire the most in the world are creative hard workers. It seems as a society we have forgotten these principals.

I wish I could go back to the service station days, but I can't. I wish I could figure out how to get people to put down their cell phones and interact with one another more, but I can't. I wish I knew how to get young people off their devices and outside more, but I can't. I wish I could change the way we assess children in school. We are clueless as a country when it comes to educating children who come from poverty. I wish I could change that, but I can't.

When I say I can't, I mean I can't today, but I'm trying. There is one thing I think I can change today though. It's something that I hope everyone reading this will do...TODAY!!!!

I have nothing against email or texting, but there is something special about THANK YOU CARDS. Remember years ago when we use to send Thank You cards in the mail. Who do you need to thank this Thanksgiving season? I encourage you to buy a thank you card today and mail it off in the next few days. There is just something special about receiving a nice hand written thank you card in the mail.

In the same way you read this article and didn't see this ending coming your loved one will be just as surprised by your thank you card.

Happy Thanksgiving and Thank you!