

Jose Smith  
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Prof. Dragan  
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### Technology at the World's Fair of 1939-1940

Technology is an important aspect of life, it prolongs health, delivers more efficient production and offers a faster livelier lifestyle. The World's Fair of 1939-40 was a trail blazer for the advancement of many new technological ideas; it gave people a look as to where technology was headed. While technology advances, so does the products that it influences. Though today's advancement of technology is well ahead of the past; the past still paved the way for many things to continue to be built upon and improved. People communicate in various ways because of new and improved technology; but without the inventions such as the telephone, individuals wouldn't have the pleasures of the different forms of communication devices of today. Everything in life has a starting point, technology is no different and when it is effective you can then improve on it. David Gelernter's book, *1939: The Lost World of the Fair*, showed how important the World's Fair was for the development of daily living. The author states, “Those austere 1947 Levittown houses had central heating and telephones, stoves, refrigerators and washing machines” (Gelernter 69). In this quote, the author gave examples on how the World Fair changed the landscape for future living. Technology was more important in the past because of the new solutions that it brought to help people with regular activities in their lives, that included communication through the telephone or traveling across bridges. The World's Fair of 1939-40, was like a booster shot in the arm of daily living; it changed the way of living for many people over the years, following it's introduction and is an important reason why modern living is the way it is. According to several sources, I agree that based on the World's Fair of 1939-40, technology was more “revolutionary” for everyday life in the 1930s than today's Internet age.

## Works Cited

Busà, Alessandro. "New York World's Fair, 1939–1940." *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*, edited by Ray Hutchison, vol. 2, SAGE Reference, 2010, pp. 561-562. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Accessed 15 Apr. 2018.

This source described how important the World Fair was in the shaping of American Culture post Word War II. The author provided information such as the new technologies, development in the industrial and architecture field.

"Detail Of Highway System In General Motors' Futurama Exhibit, 1939-40 New York World's Fair." *La Guardia and Wagner Archives*, Photograph 03.001.1184, 1939 - 1940, [www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu](http://www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu). Accessed 15 Apr. 2018.

In this photo a detailed look was given of the future road systems that would eventually be developed in America. This blue print of the highway system would change the way people traveled for good.

Gelernter, David. *1939: The Lost World of the Fair*. Avon, 1995.

In this book the author expressed reasons why the World Fair's technology was more important than today's technology. He felt that the technology presented at the World Fair was more “revolutionary compared to the mundane technological advancements in present time.

"Man Standing Next To Carrier Air Conditioner, 1939-40 New York World's Fair."

*La Guardia and Wagner Archives*, Photograph no. 03.001.1208, 1939 - 1940, [www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu](http://www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu). Accessed 15 Apr. 2018.

In this photo is a man standing by an air conditioner by a brand named Carrier. This version of the air conditioner was later introduced into homes providing a more relaxing environment.

Pollack, Michael. "A Return to the Future, 1939 Style." *The New York Times*, 23 Jul. 1998, p. G8. *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*. Accessed 15 Apr. 2018.

In this historical newspaper article the author presented ideas as to why the World Fair impacted America greatly. Some of the ideas included videos, pictures and interviews done with past fair viewers.

