# World on Wi-Fire by Niall Ferguson (2011)

As you read, answer the following questions.

1. What is the thesis statement? Why do you think he placed his thesis statement where he did? Was it effective or ineffective?
2. According to Ferguson, who are the “Lords of the Internet”? What additional title does Ferguson mention? Which title do you think fit them better? Why?
3. What two forces did he identify as great forces that have driven the communications revolution?

Looking Closely at Language

1. In paragraph 8, Ferguson states, “That’s the kind of sci-fi scenario that gets a true nerd out of bed in the morning. But is it just a bit too utopian?”. What does he mean by that? Do you agree or disagree with his assessment?
2. Find all the terms that he uses that can have negative connotations. Then make a list of terms that have positive connotations. Based on the number of these terms, what can you infer about his attitude toward technology? Is he being positive or negative? Why or why not?

Summarizing and Responding

1. After reading the article, summarize Niall Ferguson’s main point by using the rhetorical précis format.

Questions about Logic

1. Does this article convince you? Why or why not?
2. Are there claims in the article that are weak or unsupported? What are they?
3. Has the author left out an argument on purpose?

Questions about Ethos

1. What does the author’s style and language tell you about him or her?
2. Is this author knowledgeable? Smart? Successful?
3. Do you trust this author? Why or why not?

Questions about Pathos

1. Do you think the author is trying to manipulate your emotion? How?
2. Do your emotions conflict with your logical interpretation of the arguments?
3. Does the author use humor? How does this affect your acceptance of his or her ideas?