Abstract
The aim of this study is to investigate whether a college students’ usage of an iPod increases the social distance with others in social environments. There were 89 participants, under graduate and graduate students, attending the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. The participants completed an online survey which is in part inspired by Hess (2002, 2003). A Pearson Correlation Coefficient revealed that iPod usage and social distancing are not significantly related. Although this research did not find that students use their iPods to distance themselves from others, additional should probe the connection between these two variables.

Introduction
- Distance is defined as a feeling of separation from another, resulting from infrequent, weak, or varied interactions. Distance is an action that an individual makes.
- Social distance is a communication phenomenon that is perceived by people in face-to-face and mediated communication settings.
- Mediated communication is defined as a situation where a technological medium is introduced into face-to-face communication.
- The iPod is a multimedia device which can hold music, audio, and video.
- The iPod is a new form of mediated communication.
- This new era of communication is increasingly seeing the usage of the iPod. Schools across America are incorporating this new form of technology into their curriculum.
- Before you can completely have closeness in a relationship you must understand how people create distance. Closeness has been studied more extensively unlike distance.
- Determining how mediated communication has influenced individuals distancing of others helps understand a feature of social situations that is less understood.

Method
Participants
- 126 students participated
- Only 89 participant’s surveys were usable:
  □ 40 male and 78 female students
  □ 92% undergraduate and 8% graduate students
  □ Average age was 21 years old

Procedure
- 371 students were e-mailed an invitation to participate in a WebSurvey
- Response rate of 34%

Measures
- 28 questions measuring social distance and iPod usage

Results
We used a Pearson correlation to determine the significance of the relationship between iPod usage and social distance.
- $p = .25$
- This means that, according to our research, iPod usage is not significantly related to social distance

Discussion
iPod usage and social distancing are not significantly related, however, the relationship was in the predicted direction. This study shed light on distance and iPod usage, both of which are understudied topics.

Limitation
- The sample size was small

Suggestions
- Perhaps another method would reveal an association between iPod usage and social distance if indeed one exists
- Conduct a field experiment in a closed social setting where empirical data can be collected through observation

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