Reading Journal for "What Is Techne?" Kelly Pender

Pender explores five different definitions for techne that create a continuum along epistemological and axiological spectrums. The fourth definition, techne as a means of producing resources, caught my attention the most for its connection to our previous article on the Q question. "To make this argument, Arendt links the technological thinking described by Worsham (and Heidegger) to what she sees as the fundamental inability within a 'society of craftsmen' to understand the difference between utility and meaningfulness" (33). Pender/Arendt are suggesting this focus of utility creates a state of meaninglessness. This argument feels similar to the argument Steve Jobs was making to John Scully to quit selling sugar water and instead change the world at Apple. In this sense, it feels like we are getting a more negative portrayal of this fourth definition then we get from the fifth definition, a non-instrumental mode of bringing-forth. Perhaps this fifth definition is the one we will focus on the most. In conclusion, Pender/Hawk argue "that while technical knowledge may, in fact, need to be transferable across situations, it will also need to undergo modifications when enacted within a particular situation in order to produce specialized rather than generic strategies for writing" (37). I doubt we are going to get a handbook guide in this course, so my best guess is this view of techne will be our aim.