

Playing Video Games

Your Assignment:

The great debate of video games has been going on for quite some time. Recently, the news ran an article on the pros and cons of video games, and it caught the public's attention. Your teacher noticed that there has been a big debate regarding video games going on in the news too. Because this is such a big topic, she decided that you should write about it.

Your teacher would like feedback regarding how you feel about video games. She is asking each student to prepare a researched opinion-based paper to present to the class about your views on whether or not video games are good for kids.

In your research, you have found three sources.

After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully so you will have the information to answer the questions and finalize your research. You may take notes on the information you find in the sources as you read.

In part 2, you will write an opinion essay on a topic related to the sources.

Directions for Beginning:

You may now look at the sources. You can look back to these sources as much as you would like. Be sure to take notes when reading. You may want to use them while you are writing your essay.

Research Questions:

After you have carefully read the sources, use the rest of the time in part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers should help you think about the information that you have read in order to help you write your opinion essay.

You may refer back to your scratch paper to review your notes when you think it would be helpful. Answer the questions in the spaces below the items.

Your written notes on scratch paper will be available to you in part 1 and part 2 of the performance task.

PART 1

Source 1

This article was published in the local paper *South Bay Times*. It talks about the debate of video games. This article was published on November 11, 2014.

Are Video Games Good or Bad?

By: Hershel Scott

Many kids around the world have one hobby in common. It is a hobby that can be done inside so weather is not a problem. It can be done by yourself or with friends. It can be done with many different games. It is playing video games.

Video games have increased in popularity through the years. More and more kids ask their parents if they can play video games daily. This is because video games are a fun way for kids to relax and play. Some people enjoy video games and think that they are great. Other people do not agree with that.

If you play video games, you probably think they are great for you. They can help increase hand-eye coordination skills. They can entertain you. They can even teach about history or other subjects. You can play video games by yourself or with others. You can even play with friends that live far away. You can do this by using the Internet. This can help people all around the world connect and make friends.

If you do not play video games, you may think they are a waste of time. You are not alone in this thought. There are many people who believe that kids should not be playing video games. They see video games as something that makes kids miss out on being active. Kids sometimes play video games for a long period of time. This makes them miss out on exercise. Some people think this makes kids unhealthy.

There has been a lot of debate about video games and health. Now, many video game companies have made games that require kids to be more active and exercise. Some systems now require kids to use their body and move around rather than using a controller. These games help kids maintain a healthy lifestyle while still doing what they enjoy, playing video games.

Video games are always changing and adapting. There will always be people who support video games and people who do not. Your opinion of video games may also change as they are developed. There can be positives and negatives to video games. You may just need to find one that you think is fun in order to like them.

Scott, H. (2014, November 11). Are video games good or bad? *South Bay Times*. Retrieved from <http://southbaytimes.com/arevideogamesgoodorbad/>.

Source 2

This article, written in *Parenting Guidelines Magazine* was published in March of 2014. It focuses on the idea of video games being bad for children.

Video Games Are No Good

By: Franklin Beck

Too many kids nowadays play video games. Some people think video games are good for kids. They think video games are fun and beneficial. These people are wrong.

Playing video games on school nights leads to poor grades in school. Kids who spend time playing games have less time to focus on homework or studying. This causes grades to slip in school. This also gives kids less time for school work. Their brains are getting filled with video game information. Kids could also be thinking about games during class. This makes it harder for students to learn new things. Kids can be distracted in school because they think about the games they are playing at home.

Always thinking about games is not the biggest problem. Kids who play too many games may become hooked on them. This has many bad side effects. Kids who are hooked on games are not only hurt in school but also in their social lives. They stop talking to their friends and spend more time talking to strangers in a game. This could cause kids to have problems making new friends in real life. They have trouble talking to people in person because they have become used to talking to people online in games. Once hooked on a game, it is hard to get kids to want to do other activities. It is important for kids to do a variety of activities while growing up. Kids should not spend all of their time doing one activity while they develop.

Playing too many games can also cause kids to lose time for other things like sleep and exercise. They can easily lose track of time and end up playing games late into the night. Some kids even play all night into the morning, which is not good. This all-night gaming can ruin kids' sleep cycles and make them tired all the time. Without sleep, kids may never be able to grow big and strong. Also if kids are too tired, they will not want to go outside and play. They would rather play video games all day until they cannot stay awake and then fall asleep. After a few hours of sleep, they wake up just to continue their game where they left off. It is important for kids to play outside or go run around with their friends. This helps to keep them healthy. If kids do not have good sleep and play habits, they could become weak or sick.

If you play video games, it is very important that you do not play them too often. Be sure to keep other activities in your life and focus on things other than video games. Once kids play too many video games, it is a negative thing. It may just be better to avoid playing video games at all.

Beck, F. (2014, March 1). Video games are no good. *Parenting Guidelines Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://parentingguidelinesmag.org/videogamesarenogood>.

Source 3

This blog entry was published in June of 2014. The author discusses the benefits of kids playing video games.

Video Games Help!

By: Lucy Kibble

There are some people today who think video games are not good for kids. Those people are not right. Video games actually help kids a lot. Scientists have found that people who play games a lot can think better and faster than people who do not play games. Usually, when people play games, they are thinking hard.

Depending on what type of game it is, people have to think about a lot of different things. They have to figure out which way to go or how to beat a character in the game. They might also have to think about how to beat other people in the game. This helps people figure out how to solve problems. This is important because kids can apply their problem-solving skills to everyday life and school.

Video games can also help kids be social. Newer video games usually have a lot of people playing together. Because these games have a lot of people working together, they teach kids how to talk to other people and how to treat other people. Just like in the real world, if you are mean to people inside a game, people might be mean to you too.

Games are also a fun way to make new friends. Kids could use these friend-making skills in the real world. There are also a lot of other kids who play video games, so it can be a friendly thing to talk about when you meet people in the real world.

There are a lot of different types of games. These games all have their benefits. They can help kids learn about many different things. A lot of video games out there can teach subjects like math and English. Other games can teach other languages, history, or art. Some games can even help kids with their exercise! Not all games have you sitting on the couch for hours. There are some games where you dance or jump around in front of the television. These video games help a lot because kids will keep playing them.

Video games are important for kids. Video games help them with problem solving, being social, and learning. Video games have so many benefits. All kids should have access to playing video games. It is an important part of growing up.

Kibble, L. (2014, June 7). Video games help! *Raising Children*. Retrieved from <http://raisingchildren.com/videogameshelp/>.

Research Questions

Using the information you have just read from the three articles, answer the questions below.

- 1. Choose two details below that explain what both Source 1 and Source 3 say about the benefits of video games.**
 - A. Both sources say that some video games help kids become active and exercise.
 - B. Both sources say that video games help kids treat others better.
 - C. Both sources say that video games help kids in different subjects.
 - D. Both sources say that video games are adapting to help kids.
 - E. Both sources say that video games help kids develop hand-eye coordination.
 - F. Both sources say that video games help kids with problem solving.

- 2. Source 1 mentions how some people believe video games are bad. Explain how the information in Source 2 adds to the reader's understanding of how video games can be bad. Give two details from Source 2 to support your answer.**

Student Name: _____

3. Which source *most likely* has the most useful information about how video games help make friends? Explain why this source *most likely* has the most useful information. Use *two* details from the source to support your explanation.

END OF PART 1

PART 2

Directions:

You will now look at your sources, review your notes, plan, draft, and revise an essay. You may use your notes and go back to the sources provided. Read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored. Then begin your work.

Your Assignment:

After completing your research, you share your findings with your English teacher. To present your opinion on video games to your teacher, she suggests that you write an opinion essay about whether video games are good or bad for kids.

Today you will write a multi-paragraph opinion essay in which you take a stance on the topic of video games. Make sure you establish an opinion, address possible opinions of others, and support your claim with the sources you have read. Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the sources. Be sure to reference the sources by title or number when using details or facts directly from the sources.

Opinion Essay Scoring:

Your opinion essay will be scored using the following rubric:

1. **Organization/Purpose:** How well did you state your claim, address opposing claims, and maintain your claim from beginning to end? How well did your ideas thoughtfully flow from beginning to end? How effective was your introduction and your conclusion?
2. **Evidence/Elaboration:** How well did you bring in information from the sources? How well did you expand on your ideas? How well did you clearly state ideas in your own words? How well did you reference the sources you used by title or number?
3. **Conventions:** How well did you follow the rules of grammar usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling?

Now begin your opinion essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- plan your multi-paragraph opinion essay
- write your multi-paragraph opinion essay
- revise and edit your final draft of your multi-paragraph opinion essay

For part 2, you are being asked to write a multi-paragraph opinion essay, so be as thorough as possible.

Remember to check your notes and your prewriting/planning as you write and then revise and edit your opinion essay.