



GRADE 9-10 LITERACY:
THE POWER OF NEW MEDIA
STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

Grades 9-10 Literacy: The Power of New Media
Student Work
Student A

Another Addiction

Look to the bottom right of your computer screen. It's about 2:00 in the morning when you log off and fall into a much delayed sleep. I am sure that much of the youth today can relate to this situation. This is because the media, more specifically the Internet, has affected them tremendously. Internet causes distraction and just wastes time of young people and teenagers alike. While some may say that the Internet is a positive influence I stand to prove that it does much more harm than good.

The internet causes a lack of focus and distraction to youth. I have conducted a poll and most students get on the computer and log onto facebook and/or aim directly after school. While it is understandable that after a long day of school one should relax, however students will stay logged in until well after 5PM, oblivious to how much time has passed. I am not innocent of this either, up until my recent disillusionment, I found it difficult to stay on task with homework and chores because I just wanted to use the Internet. This mindset is very common nowadays with youth according to a news article "Growing Up Digital, Wired for Distraction" by Matt Richel. They speak of a 17-year old boy named Vishal. Vishal had a summer reading project, but has only read 43 pages by the end of the vacation. This is because he chooses to use facebook and YouTube rather than do his homework. Yes, indeed the Internet makes it even more challenging for students to focus on schoolwork.

Another negative effect of the internet is that it impairs one's writing skills."Loiz, hey how is yu doing!" This the contemporary fashion of writing on the Internet. Because of constantly writing like this on Facebook or Aim. Simple spelling and proper sentence construction become challenges. Vocabulary growth is also affected. People who type on the internet are stuck with a rudimentary vocabulary. One source by reporter Zoe Kleinman says that children who use the internet are better writers. More specifically, she says that they are more "enthusiastic" about writing. I say that being enthusiastic does

not mean being efficient. My good friend is an avid writer of poetry, but I don't see anything impressive in his essays.

Many people say that the internet is useful for learning how to communicate and interact with people. The use of networking sites such as Facebook and Myspace supposedly helps them express themselves and "socialize" with others. I disagree completely. Yes, they are socializing but that I have already dismissed as a complete waste of time. I also say that it is hindering their communication skills. Yes, one should feel at ease when talking to somebody with a computer between them. I find it easy to debate on an online forum, but I would probably choke if it was in real life. Thus I feel that socializing on the internet harms one's communication skills rather than helps them. After all a job interview would not be done via E-mail.

In conclusion, the internet affects the average teenager very negatively. It tempts them to lose focus, impairs their literacy skills, and hinder their in life social skills. These are just some of negative things that come from excessive internet use. People need to understand that the internet was supposed to make lives easier and more manageable. Instead it has made it far worse.

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Student B

Effects of Media on Young People

In today's society there are many ways for young people to get distracted by the media. First of all phone companies constantly create new plans to make calling, texting, and surfing the web, etc. cheaper. This allows low-income families to increase their time spent on cell phones. Therefore media plays a negative role in a youth's life because the media distracts youth from education.

Furthermore, Facebook, YouTube, and MySpace are a few examples of social networking that pull youth off track. For example, in "Fast Times at Woodside High", Vishnal a bright 17-teen year old was not able to finish the book Kurt Vonnegut's Cat's Cradle, his summer reading assignment, but he managed to read only 43 pages in two months. Vishnal's lack of academic proficiency was due to Facebook and creating videos for YouTube.

Additionally, according to "Media Use" children spend two hours and 46 minutes on average on the computer and about 48 minutes reading. This shows us that kids are losing their educational interest because of the media. Also the youth are not being productive enough sitting in front of a TV screen. This can also lead to health issues and result in obese children, because kids no longer want to participate in activities outside but instead sit and watch TV. This also makes kids lazy.

In retrospect, the media has a negative effect in a youth's life. Additionally, the media set the standards of how to be "cool" because of celebrities. Youth look up to celebrities which is bad because celebrities do not usually send the message that education is key. Therefore youth get put off track because they are not learning how important education is and get the wrong view of the path to success.

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Student C

Media is a positive influence in my life. I say that because media is used to help further expand the knowledge of children. Children depend on the Internet to retrieve their homework that teachers gave them the previous day.

The internet is also a great source of information to inform you about people that lived from hundreds to thousands of years. It also tell you about the foods we eat and who came up with the idea of food. It informs us about news and current events.

Media is a very important source of information as I said earlier. Media is a place to retrieve items for your homework. There is all sorts of information as well as media to relax and watch the DVD's YOUTUBE and much more.

As a result media overall is a place that can be that most positive thing on earth or the best thing to avoid. I focused on the positive. You will have to find another author to feed you the negative side.