**File Name: A9-10P High School Should Not Participate**

**Opinion/Argument**

**Grade 9-10**

**On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**High School Should Not Participate**

To whom it may concern:

**Introduces a precise claim:** The introduction states a claim and then gives context about the subject of technology, acknowledging it as a **substantive topic**

 L\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School should not participate in the national

“Shut Down Your Screen Week.” Technology can be beneficial, especially

 to students. A vast majority of students finds it helpful to have access to

 technology. Technology makes quicker, more efficient work. Without the

 advancements of technology, we are no farther along than school children

 in the 1960’s.

**Creates an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence**

 The internet and social media, such as Facebook, improve the social

 lives of those who use it. In the article Information, Communication and

Society, a survey found that whether the participants were married or single,

 people who used social media had more close friends. An average

American who uses social media is half as likely to be socially isolated.

They also know more diverse people. Also, users of social media never

 lose ties because of relocating, because you can always keep your friends

**Develops the claim fairly, supplying evidence** for it, but does not develop the counterclaims or acknowledge significant limitations of the claim

 on social media.

 Internet search engines allow us better access to information. In my

 experience, information is far more accessible and quick than searching

through books. That allows for time to complete other class assignments.

According to Peter Norvig, director of research for Google, Inc., in an article

 for the New York Times, “The internet contains the world’s best writing,

images, and ideas; Google lets us find the relevant pieces instantly.” Some

argue that ads and irrelevant sites may be distracting, but more find that the

**Distinguishes the claim from an opposing claim**

benefits are worth it. Eighty-one percent of experts polled by the Pew

Internet Research Project support this opinion.

 The internet also makes a good learning tool. In an article by

Matt Richtel for the New York Times, he proves that it helps our brains.

**Develops the claim fairly, supplying evidence** for it, but does not develop the counterclaims or acknowledge significant limitations of the claim

 “Imaging studies show the brains of Internet users become more

efficient at finding information.” Basically, the more we use online

resources to learn, the better our brains become at learning. Also, in

 the same article, it says, “Internet users showed greater brain activity

 than non-users…” The internet even develops our brain to think

more! Technology is improving our brains.

 I have heard it argued that children “rot” their brains with

**Distinguishes the claim from an opposing claim**

video game systems. In the previously mentioned article by Matt

Richtel, he says, “At the University of Rochester, researchers found

that players of some fast-paced video games can track the movement

**Establishes and maintains a** **formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline**

of a third more objects on a screen than nonplayers…games can improve

 reaction time and the ability to pick out details amid clutter.” It seems

 that the more people play fast-paced video games, the more efficient

they become at finding important details. These games may not be so

“brain rotting “ after all. They could even be argued as beneficial.

**Uses words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships between claim and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim and counterclaims**

 Some also argue that because of new technologies, people limit

how much they associate together, even in the same area. Social media

disproves this argument. Not only can people associate easily with friends,

 they can also chat with relatives. They can also show relatives photos,

even if they are states away. People who use social media are more likely

 to know more diverse people, according to the article by Keith Hampton.

**Acknowledges counterclaim, pointing out its limitation, anticipates audience’s (**other students, parents, teachers, school board) **concern.**

People still associate with people just as much as before, if not more.

They are merely doing it in a different manner than before social media

was in use.

 Cyber bullying has now become an issue. I would like to bring to

attention that all bullying is a big issue. I do not think that technology has

caused bullying. It has just allowed for a new way to bully someone. I

have never been cyber-bullied. I personally was bullied in a face-to-face

manner. A bully will take any chance to bully a target. Social media has

 not caused bullying.

 Like most tools, technology is useful if used correctly. Work

**Acknowledges counterclaim, pointing out its limitation, anticipates audience’s (**other students, parents, teachers, school board) **concern.**

NOTE: “people are lazy” is an *ad hominem* approach, and should not be used

quality on a computer can be better, because people have more time to check

 over their work and improve it. Unfortunately, some people are lazy, and use

 that extra time they could use for editing for other things. That is not a

problem with the tools, it is a problem with the people. People who use

such technology correctly and efficiently should still have access. If our

screens are shut down, there is no access. We should not participate in

**Provides a concluding statement that follows from** but does not add support to **the argument presented**

“Shut Down Your Screen Week.”

 Sincerely,

In this on-demand assignment, students were asked to take a position on whether their school should participate in the national “Shut Down Your Screen Week.” This writer begins by asserting the claim that, in his view, the school should not participate and then discusses technology in a broad and substantive sense to provide context concerning the issue.

The writer develops his claim with several reasons, which he supports with sufficient, relevant, credible evidence, demonstrating his understanding of the topic and the texts he has read. The evidence in this piece comes from those texts and from the writer’s experience. The writer organizes his ideas clearly and supports his claim with logical reasoning. In addition, he acknowledges multiple counterclaims, distinguishes them from his own claim, and refutes them with support for his own position, which again includes evidence from the texts. In some cases, the writer introduces counterclaims specifically to anticipate the concerns of the likely audience (other students, parents, teachers, school board members). However, the writer does not develop the counterclaims or acknowledge their strengths, and he resorts to *ad hominem* (“people are lazy”) in the closing paragraph—approaches inconsistent with the Standards at this grade level. Throughout the essay, the writer uses words, phrases, and clauses as transitions to clarify the relationships among claim, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence and to create cohesion.

The writer maintains a formal style and objective tone throughout the piece. The conclusion follows from the argument but does not significantly support it.

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 The internet and social media, such as Facebook, improve the social lives of those who use it. In the article Information, Communication and Society, a survey found that whether the participants were married or single, people who used social media had more close friends. An average American who uses social media is half as likely to be socially isolated. They also know more diverse people. Also, users of social media never lose ties because of relocating, because you can always keep your friends on social media.

 Internet search engines allow us better access to information. In my experience, information is far more accessible and quick than searching through books. That allows for time to complete other class assignments. According to Peter Norvig, director of research for Google, Inc., in an article for the New York Times, “The internet contains the world’s best writing, images, and ideas; Google lets us find the relevant pieces instantly.” Some argue that ads and irrelevant sites may be distracting, but more find that the benefits are worth it. Eighty-one percent of experts polled by the Pew Internet Research Project support this opinion.

 The internet also makes a good learning tool. In an article by Matt Richtel for the New York Times, he proves that it helps our brains. “Imaging studies show the brains of Internet users become more efficient at finding information.” Basically, the more we use online resources to learn, the better our brains become at learning. Also, in the same article, it says, “Internet users showed greater brain activity than non-users…” The internet even develops our brain to think more! Technology is improving our brains.

 I have heard it argued that children “rot” their brains with video game systems. In the previously mentioned article by Matt Richtel, he says, “At the University of Rochester, researchers found that players of some fast-paced video games can track the movement of a third more objects on a screen than nonplayers…games can improve reaction time and the ability to pick out details amid clutter.” It seems that the more people play fast-paced video games, the more efficient they become at finding important details. These games may not be so “brain rotting “ after all. They could even be argued as beneficial.

 Some also argue that because of new technologies, people limit how much they associate together, even in the same area. Social media disproves this argument. Not only can people associate easily with friends, they can also chat with relatives. They can also show relatives photos, even if they are states away. People who use social media are more likely to know more diverse people, according to the article by Keith Hampton. People still associate with people just as much as before, if not more. They are merely doing it in a different manner than before social media was in use.

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 Like most tools, technology is useful if used correctly. Work quality on a computer can be better, because people have more time to check over their work and improve it. Unfortunately, some people are lazy, and use that extra time they could use for editing for other things. That is not a problem with the tools, it is a problem with the people. People who use such technology correctly and efficiently should still have access. If our screens are shut down, there is no access. We should not participate in “Shut Down Your Screen Week.”

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