



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Letter to the Editor: Social Media

A Good Tool for Communication



Claim and Focus

The essay introduces the topic with relevant context, but the claim is overly general (“Social networking can be a good thing”). This results in a weak focus throughout the essay, as the ideas presented are disconnected (“get to know people,” “inform us,” “relax,” “make plans”). Counterclaims are not presented evenly (“older people say that social media is taking over interaction”).



Support and Evidence

Evidence is presented but not developed appropriately. Ideas are general (“You can talk to each other and learn more about them”), with uneven explanation, and no specific examples are provided when appropriate (“famous athletes,” “making plans to hangout with our friends”).



Organization

The organizational structure is ineffective, as the first paragraph introduces the topic, claim, and begins to defend the claim with evidence. Use of transitions is uneven; while some ideas are presented with context (“One way that I feel social media betters our lives,” “This shows that”), it is difficult to discern the relationship between others.



Language and Style

Errors in conventions, syntax, and word choice affect the flow of the essay, and sentence structure does not vary often. A formal tone and advanced vocabulary are attempted, yet inconsistent (shifts in point of view, “Children in the 21st century have all the modern technology” vs. “And think about it...I wouldn’t call them lazy!”).



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Letter to the Editor: Social Media



A Good Tool for Communication

Children in the 21st century have all the modern technology, years before only a few had a phone. People who were born in the year of 1950 didn't have social networks. Due to lack of social media, long friendships were lost. Although networks such as Facebook take up time and kill boredom, teenagers and adults communicate with family members or even childhood friends through social networks. Social networking is controversial, but I personally believe that it can be a good thing. Facebook is a great way to get to know people that you don't know very well or want to get to know better. You can talk to each other and learn more about them.

One way that I feel social media betters our lives is that helps to inform us of what is going on around the world. If you are stressed you can just go on twitter, Facebook, etc. This will take your mind off of what you're thinking and you can relax for a little. And think about it, most of the famous athletes have twitters and I wouldn't call them lazy! Some of my friends are smart and some aren't, but they both have social media accounts. This shows that it isn't the social media that is a distraction. It is simply them not trying. A lot of the older people say that social media is taking over interaction between people. This is wrong because we are talking to each other and most of the time making plans to hangout with our friends. I believe that social media cites are a good thing for communication and for seeing members of your family and friends and being able to catch up with them. Many people view social media mainly as a negative thing, but there are so many aspects of it that are positive that the good outweighs the bad.