

Argumentative Essay Topic

Technology is supposed to make us more connected. We can stay in touch with our friends all the time on Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr, and, of course, by texting. But are our smartphones actually getting in the way of real socializing? Could technology be making us more alone?

In an essay, take one side of the argument and explain using specific details and examples from literature, the arts, history, current events, politics, science and technology, personal experience, and/or observation.

Links to help you:

Articles –

- “Disruptions: More Connected, Yet More Alone” by Nick Bilton <http://nyti.ms/19y4FB6>
- “Does Technology Cut Us Off from Other People?” by Lauren Klein http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/does_technology_cut_us_off_from_other_people#
- “10 ways mobile devices are changing society” <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/10-ways-mobile-devices-are-changing-society/>
- Are smartphones making us less social? <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/are-smartphones-are-making-us-less-social/>

Videos –

- “I Forgot my Phone” <https://youtu.be/OINa46HeWg8>
- “Look Up” <https://youtu.be/Z7dLU6fk9QY>

*This is not an exhaustive list—feel free to use other sources!

Essay Pre-Write Graphic Organizer

Body Paragraph Template:

1. Topic Sentence
2. Reason Sentence
3. Detail Sentences
4. Reason Sentence
5. Detail Sentences
6. Reason Sentence
7. Detail Sentences
8. Concluding Sentence

Thesis

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Topic Sentence 1

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Reason 1

Support:

Reason 2

Support:

Reason 3

Support:

Topic Sentence 2

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Reason 1

Support:

Reason 2

Support:

Reason 3

Support:

Topic Sent 3

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Reason 1

Support:

Reason 2

Support:

Reason 3

Support:

*Remember – ALL “Reason Sentences” must be explained with details!! (Sentences 2, 4, & 6)

Proper Citation

- If you use someone else's words you must cite it.
- Two ways to cite:
 - Adding the author's name in the quote
 - Write the quote with the author's name in the sentence.
 - Write the source in parenthesis after the citation.
 - According to James Smith, Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (*The History of Wordsworth*).

Proper Citation

- If the author's name is not stated, put the author in parenthesis following the citation
 - The Collaborative Virtual Workspace prototype is being used by the Defense Department for crisis management (Davidson and Deus).
- If you don't have an author who is a person and you only have the organization that wrote the article, cite using the title.
 - For example, if you don't have the author for the previous citation, use the article title:
 - The Collaborative Virtual Workspace prototype is being used by the Defense Department for crisis management ("The US Defense Department")

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English 9

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The Soda Wars

Sample Introduction Paragraph

The State of Michigan has cut school funds to the bare minimum and schools are operating by cutting corners that hurt students academically and financially. Schools need to find creative ways to make money with very little assistance from the state. Therefore, schools should allow soda vending machines in schools to raise money and give students a choice to make their own choices. In contrast, many believe that too many American teens are obese and soda and sugary drinks contribute to teen obesity.

Sample Body Paragraph

To start, soda vending machines should not be taken out of schools because they provide valuable dollars that can help fund schools and various programs. To begin, many schools, especially in Michigan, are strapped for cash and their sports programs are suffering. Many schools have high pay-to-participate fees for students, which add up if the student plays several sports. The vending machines can alleviate this cost. Another cost that vending machines could alleviate is the cost for supplies for students and teachers. Each year, teachers spend their hard-earned dollars in their classrooms that they do not get compensated for. The money from the vending machines could then go to a fund to help pay for classroom supplies which in return would prevent teachers from spending money on supplies and actually give them a pay raise. Finally, the funds from vending machines would help pay for transportation for school and

sporting events. As funding for schools decreases, so does the budget for transportation to and from sporting events and the cost of field trips for students, and students are stuck finding their own rides and prevented from taking field trips. A 2010 study in the article “High School Sports Today” showed that 30% of students did not play a sport because of transportation issues (Jones). In summary, vending machines bring valuable dollars to schools to pay for sports, supplies and transportation.

Sample Concluding Paragraph

In conclusion, schools should continue to allow soda vending machines in their halls and cafeterias. They should do this because it gives the schools additional funding to cash strapped programs and gives the students a choice and option to make their own responsible decisions. In contrast, many others believe that soda and other sugary drinks have contributed to teen obesity and want to see these machines removed from schools. Unfortunately, the United States is in a recession which affects government spending. Public services like schools are usually the first institutions to get cut. The vending machines can help alleviate the pain of one of the cornerstones of American society and make this country great.