

Prompt 1

Prompt

More and more people use computers, but not everyone agrees that this benefits society. Those who support advances in technology believe that computers have a positive effect on people. They teach hand-eye coordination, give people the ability to learn about faraway places and people, and even allow people to talk online with other people. Others have different ideas. Some experts are concerned that people are spending too much time on their computers and less time exercising, enjoying nature, and interacting with family and friends.

Write a letter to your local newspaper in which you state your opinion on the effects computers have on people. Persuade the readers to agree with you.

Attributes

1. Ideas & Content
2. Organization
3. Word Choice
4. Sentence Fluency
5. Conventions

Scoring Guidelines

1. Ideas & Content

This property checks for the amount of content and ideas present in the essay.

Score 6: The writing is exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting. It holds the reader's attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by

- clarity, focus, and control.
- main idea(s) that stand out.
- supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support.
- a thorough, balanced, in-depth explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights.
- content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose.

Score 5: The writing is clear, focused and interesting. It holds the reader's attention. Main ideas stand out and are developed by supporting details suitable to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by

- clarity, focus, and control.
- main idea(s) that stand out.
- supporting, relevant, carefully selected details; when appropriate, use of resources provides strong, accurate, credible support.
- a thorough, balanced explanation / exploration of the topic; the writing makes connections and shares insights.
- content and selected details that are well-suited to audience and purpose.

Score 4: The writing is clear and focused. The reader can easily understand the main ideas. Support is present, although it may be limited or rather general. The writing is characterized by

- an easily identifiable purpose.
- clear main idea(s).
- supporting details that are relevant, but may be overly general or limited in places; when appropriate, resources are used to provide accurate support.
- a topic that is explored / explained, although developmental details may occasionally be out of balance with the main idea(s); some connections and insights may be present.
- content and selected details that are relevant, but perhaps not consistently well-chosen for audience and purpose.

Score 3: The reader can understand the main ideas, although they may be overly broad or simplistic, and the results may not be effective. Supporting detail is often limited, insubstantial, overly general, or occasionally slightly off-topic. The writing is characterized by

- an easily identifiable purpose and main idea(s).
- predictable or overly-obvious main ideas; or points that echo observations heard elsewhere; or a close retelling of another work.
- support that is attempted, but developmental details are often limited, uneven, somewhat off-topic, predictable, or too general (e.g., a list of underdeveloped points).
- details that may not be well-grounded in credible resources; they may be based on clichés, stereotypes or questionable sources of information.
- difficulties when moving from general observations to specifics.

Score 2: Main ideas and purpose are somewhat unclear or development is attempted but minimal. The writing is characterized by

- a purpose and main idea(s) that may require extensive inferences by the reader.
- minimal development; insufficient details.
- irrelevant details that clutter the text.
- extensive repetition of detail.

Score 1: The writing lacks a central idea or purpose. The writing is characterized by

- ideas that are extremely limited or simply unclear.
- attempts at development that are minimal or nonexistent; the paper is too short to demonstrate the development of an idea.

2. Organization

This property checks how well structured the essay is. **NOTE:** Since the dataset has the essays compressed into one line, please bear in mind that the paragraph information is lost. Hence, give writers the benefit of the doubt here.

Score 6: The essay is well-organized. There is a clear flow of ideas with each idea self-contained (this is where we assume that each idea is contained in a paragraph). The essay has the appropriate form as a letter to the editor.

Score 5: The essay shows good organization. There is a flow of ideas. However, the ideas are mostly self-contained. The essay has the appropriate form as a letter to the editor.

Score 4: The essay shows satisfactory organization. It contains a basic introduction, body and conclusion.

Score 3: The essay shows some organization. Its form may not be that of a letter to the editor. Its ideas are not necessarily self-contained.

Score 2: Shows little or no evidence of organization.

Score 1: The essay is awkward and fragmented. Ideas are not self-contained.

3. Word Choice

Score 6: Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by

- accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing.
- fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective.
- vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone.
- ordinary words used in an unusual way.
- words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used.

Score 5: Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by

- accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing.
- fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective.
- vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone.
- ordinary words used in an unusual way.
- words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used.

Score 4: Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by

- words that work but do not particularly energize the writing.
- expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective.
- attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone.
- occasional overuse of technical language or jargon.
- rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.

Score 3: Language lacks precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by

- words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest.
- expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective.
- attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced.
- words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear; technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used.
- reliance on clichés and overused expressions.
- text that is too short to demonstrate variety.

Score 2: Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by

- words that are colorless, flat or imprecise.
- monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly detract from the message.

Score 1: The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by

- general, vague words that fail to communicate.
- an extremely limited range of words.
- words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.

4. Sentence Fluency

Score 6: The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by

- a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing effortlessly into the next.
- extensive variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text.
- sentence structure that enhances meaning by drawing attention to key ideas or reinforcing relationships among ideas.
- varied sentence patterns that create an effective combination of power and grace.
- strong control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well.
- stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural.

Score 5: The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by

- a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing into the next.
- variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text.
- sentence structure that enhances meaning.
- control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well.
- stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural.

Score 4: The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. The writing is characterized by

- a natural sound; the reader can move easily through the piece, although it may lack a certain rhythm and grace.
- some repeated patterns of sentence structure, length, and beginnings that may detract somewhat from overall impact.
- strong control over simple sentence structures, but variable control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, are usually effective.
- occasional lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural for the most part, but may at times sound stilted or unnatural.

Score 3: The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by

- some passages that invite fluid oral reading; however, others do not.
- some variety in sentence structure, length, and beginnings, although the writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns.

- good control over simple sentence structures, but little control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, may not be effective.
- sentences which, although functional, lack energy.
- lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, may sound stilted or unnatural.
- text that is too short to demonstrate variety and control.

Score 2: The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by

- significant portions of the text that are difficult to follow or read aloud.
- sentence patterns that are monotonous (e.g., subject-verb or subject-verb-object).
- a significant number of awkward, choppy, or rambling constructions.

Score 1: The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward. The writing is characterized by

- text that does not invite—and may not even permit—smooth oral reading.
- confusing word order that is often jarring and irregular.
- sentence structure that frequently obscures meaning.
- sentences that are disjointed, confusing, or rambling..

5. Conventions

Score 6: The writing demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. The writing is characterized by

- strong control of conventions; manipulation of conventions may occur for stylistic effect.
- strong, effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text.
- correct spelling, even of more difficult words.
- correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style.
- skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece.
- little or no need for editing.

Score 5: The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are few and minor. Conventions support readability. The writing is characterized by

- strong control of conventions.
- effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text.
- correct spelling, even of more difficult words.
- correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor.
- correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style.

- skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece.
- little need for editing.

Score 4: The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage). Significant errors do not occur frequently. Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by

- control over conventions used, although a wide range is not demonstrated.
- correct end-of-sentence punctuation; internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect.
- spelling that is usually correct, especially on common words.
- correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor.
- occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage; problems are not severe enough to distort meaning or confuse the reader.
- moderate need for editing.

Score 3: The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability. The writing is characterized by

- some control over basic conventions; the text may be too simple or too short to reveal mastery.
- end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors.
- spelling errors that distract the reader; misspelling of common words occurs.
- capitalization errors.
- errors in grammar and usage that do not block meaning but do distract the reader.
- significant need for editing.

Score 2: The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability. The writing is characterized by

- little control over basic conventions.
- many end-of-sentence punctuation errors; internal punctuation contains frequent errors.
- spelling errors that frequently distract the reader; misspelling of common words often occurs.
- capitalization that is inconsistent or often incorrect.
- errors in grammar and usage that interfere with readability and meaning.
- substantial need for editing.

Score 1: Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning. The writing is characterized by

- very limited skill in using conventions.
- basic punctuation (including end-of-sentence punctuation) that tends to be omitted, haphazard, or incorrect.
- frequent spelling errors that significantly impair readability.
- capitalization that appears to be random.
- a need for extensive editing.

In case of doubts

Since some of the ratings may be close, award the **LOWER** grade in case there is not enough information, i.e. that there are too few sentences / words.