

A "Shut Down Your Screen Week" has just been proposed by a group of parents and teachers at our school, which would be a week where no students could use any electronic media. They think that a week with no technology whatsoever will be beneficial in many ways. While it could be, technology has many more benefits than drawbacks.

First, there should not be a "Shut Down Your Screen Week" because studies have shown that people are less likely to be lonely if they use social media. In the article "Social Media as Community" by Keith Hampton, it said a study found that those who used social media had more close friends than those who did not, regardless of whether or not the participant was married or single. The same article stated, "A recent follow-up study, 'Social Networking and Our Lives' (Pew Research Center), found that the average user of a social networking site had more close ties than and was half as likely to be socially isolated as the average American." This shows that people who use social media are more likely to be supported and be less lonely. You can make many good friends over the internet, and keep some you already made, therefore, decreasing your chances of ever being lonely.

Second, over social media, you can make friends that have different backgrounds. In the article "Social Media as a Community," by Keith Hampton, it said "Additionally, my co-authors and I, in another article published in *New Media and Society*, found not only that social media users knew people from a greater variety of backgrounds, but also that much of this diversity was a result of people using these technologies who simultaneously spent an impressive amount of time socializing outside of the house." Therefore, social media can expose people to many different backgrounds and diversity, and also get them out of the house more often. Additionally, it is good for students to be exposed to many different cultures and such as well because this can help them learn and to accept peoples' differences.

Finally, the internet and technology often can help students and teachers with their work and schoolwork. For example, everyone in our class is typing their essays on a computer right now. Without technology, we would have to do it by hand, so technology is a great advantage in this case. In the article, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" it states "Just as a car allows us to move faster and a telescope lets us see farther, access to the Internet's information lets us think better and faster." Also, the article states that the internet can be beneficial when no books are available on a subject one is interested in. By searching said subject on Google, you can often find the info you need faster and actually get the info, which libraries and such do not always have. Therefore, the internet can be useful for teachers and students to do their work.

Some might say that we should have a "Shut Down Your Screen Week" because technology can distract us and when we are distracted we don't think as well. While this can be the case, in the article "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" it states, "There's no doubt the internet can create distractions. But 81 percent of experts polled by the Pew Internet Research Project say the opportunities outweigh the distractions." There you have it. While we can get distracted by the Internet, it can help us learn much more than we would be able to without it.

In conclusion, there should never be a "Shut Down Your Screen Week" because technology can harm us but it benefits us much, much more. Therefore, teachers, students, administrators and parents of the world, do not let your school or your students' school have a "Shut Down Your Screen Week." You'll find it is more beneficial to not have one than to have one.

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Comment [KD1]: Claim

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Comment [KD2]: Paraphrased evidence from passage set cited with author and title tag

Comment [KD3]: Elaboration on quotation

Second, over social media, you can make friends that have different backgrounds. In the article "Social Media as a Community," by Keith Hampton, it said "Additionally, my co-authors and I, in another article published in *New Media and Society*, found not only that social media users knew people from a greater variety of backgrounds, but also that much of this diversity was a result of people using these technologies who simultaneously spent an impressive amount of time socializing outside of the house." Therefore, social media can expose people to many different backgrounds and diversity, and also get them out of the house more often. Additionally, it is good for students to be exposed to many different cultures and such as well because this can help them learn and to accept peoples' differences.

Comment [KD4]: Quotation from passage set cited with author and title tag

Comment [KD5]: Domain-specific vocabulary

Comment [KD6]: Internal transition

Comment [KD7]: Transition between paragraphs

Finally, the internet and technology often can help students and teachers with their work and schoolwork. For example, everyone in our class is typing their essays on a computer right now. Without technology, we would have to do it by hand, so technology is a great advantage in this case. In the article, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" it states "Just as a car allows us to move faster and a telescope lets us see farther, access to the Internet's information lets us think better and faster." Also, the article states that the internet can be beneficial when no books are available on a subject one is interested in. By searching said subject on Google, you can often find the info you need faster and actually get the info, which libraries and such do not always have. Therefore, the internet can be useful for teachers and students to do their work.

Comment [KD8]: Academic vocabulary

Comment [KD9]: Internal transition

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Comment [KD10]: Transition to counterclaim

Comment [KD11]: Quotation used to establish relationship between claim, counterclaim, and evidence

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Comment [KD12]: Reiteration of claim

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	4
Evidence/Elaboration	4
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes a strong argument and focuses entirely on the prompt. It has a clear organizational structure, including an introduction and conclusion. The claim is stated in the introduction and revisited with supporting ideas in the conclusion. A counterclaim is effectively addressed in the fifth paragraph using information from the passage set. The progression of ideas is logical and communicated to the reader with transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and internal transitions within the paragraphs ("Additionally," "Therefore").

The essay uses quotations and paraphrased information from the passage set as evidence to support its claims and cites the sources. The evidence is integrated into the text smoothly. The essay also elaborates on the evidence for the reader as necessary. The writing occasionally uses informal language ("Info"), but the use of academic ("available") and domain-specific ("social media") vocabulary helps to achieve a more appropriate formal tone and style.

Few editing errors are evident, and they do not obscure the meaning of the text.