

Name: _____ Per. _____ Due Date: _____

"Teens and Tech" Persuasive Research Paper

10th Grade English Learning Targets:

- **LT 1:** Cite textual evidence to support argument
- **LT 4:** Introduce arguments/thesis statement, organize ideas clearly with evidence
- **LT 5:** Integrate textual information into original ideas, avoiding plagiarism.
- **LT 7:** Organize ideas clearly for a specific audience and purpose. Plan, revise, edit, rewrite.
- **LT 8:** Follow language conventions: spelling, grammar, punctuation, and MLA Formatting



Writing Prompt: Is technology a positive or negative influence on teens? What are the benefits and consequences?

Write a persuasive research paper, in which you argue one side of the debate on teenagers and technology. Support your ideas with specific textual evidence from articles, videos, and research. Consider the counterargument: how will you convince those who disagree with you?

Resources available at: mrnittle.com

Writing Criteria:

- Well-developed and organized essay: Introduction, Body, Conclusion
- Strong thesis statement (argument)
- Textual evidence to back up position (quotes/paraphrases with citations). Must include at least five (5) sources in your paper.
- Address the counterargument (rebuttal). See below for possible sentence starters.
- Checked for spelling/grammar/mechanics
- Typed in MLA Format (Times New Roman, 12 point, Double Spaced). Submit essay on Google Classroom (classroom.google.com).
- All sources must be noted on a Works Cited page at the end of the essay in MLA Format. Helpful websites include: www.easybib.com and www.citationmachine.net.

Possible Thesis Statement Sentence

Starters:

- Technology is a (positive/negative) influence on teens, because...
- Teenagers have been (positively/negatively) affected by technology, due to...
- Technology has changed school and social relationships for teens in a (positive/negative) way, by...

Addressing the Counterargument:

- Some might argue that _____; however...
- While the public might believe _____, researchers have shown that...
- Positive benefits do include _____, but they are outweighed by the negative consequences. For example...
- Some believe that _____; however, the reality is that...

Possible research questions:

- What are the effects of social media on human relationships?
- Do video games lead to violence or antisocial behavior?
- Does social media lead to technology addiction?
- How has the Internet helped or hurt students in school?
- At what age should children be allowed to use smartphones and social media?
- When students get in trouble for social media at school (cheating, "sexting" scandals, etc.), who or what is to blame: the student, the parent, the school or the technology?
- Does technology belong in school?

1. List some possible topics/ideas that you want to explore in your research paper:

2. Look through your binder and notes. Which sources from the unit might you include?

3. Where else do you plan to search for resources and evidence to support your argument?

4. Answer the following question (this will become your thesis statement): Is technology a positive or negative influence on teens? What are the benefits and consequences?
