

8th Grade Argumentative
Prompt: Shut Down Your Screen

Well I think that shutting down all the kid's phones for a week would be good. Because kids are paying more attention to their phones then they are the teachers. And from what I heard on CNN, kids are checking their phones more than 100 times a day. They're checking their Facebook, snapchat, twitter, and skype.

Comment [KD1]: Claim

Comment [KD2]: Domain-specific vocabulary

And kids would rather play games on their phones then learning what they want to learn. If we do it at home too, we would have more time to do homework. And we wouldn't be getting distracted from texting, music, and people friending you on apps. Kids can concentrate on what they're learning instead of wearying about what their friends are doing on their phones.

Also instead of kids lying that they are using conciliators there actually checking their phones. When kids are supposed to be studying there're on their phones on Facebook. When kids have free time in their classes, the teacher says, "Do missing assignments, homework, or read." Kids decide to play on their phones.

Then they get a certain amount of warnings, then their phones get taken away. Then they end up bringing another to school and the same things happen to that one. Then there throwing this huge fit, saying bad things about the teacher. Then they get a bad attitude from their teachers.

8th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	1
Evidence/Elaboration	1
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay attempts to make an argument by beginning with a claim, but focus drifts to issues of classroom management. The essay appears to have an introduction, but no conclusion is apparent. No counterclaim is acknowledged in the text. The essay makes use of simple transitions between paragraphs (“Also...And...Then”) in an attempt to show the relationships among major ideas, but the organization and flow is generally obscure.

The essay makes no apparent use of evidence from the passage set. The essay does attempt elaboration, but relies exclusively on background knowledge. Some use is made of domain-specific vocabulary (“Facebook, snapchat, twitter, and skype”), but the text does not establish a style or tone appropriate to the audience.

Editing errors in spelling, grammar, and mechanics are present, but do not obscure the meaning of the text.

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Should the school participate in “Shut down your screen week”? I say that the school should participate in “shut down your screen week.” Three reasons are: People have fewer real relationships with humans, that 20 years ago. Technology is making people dumber. And technology can make us forget stuff. Read on to find out more information about the three reasons above.

Comment [KD1]: Claim

My first reason why our school should participate in “shut down your screen week” is, people have fewer relationships with humans. They had more relationships 20 years ago. When you lose a friend, that doesn’t mean you’re out of friends. When you go online you have multiple friends. So, losing one friend won’t make that big of a deal, even if it’s in “real” like.

Comment [KD2]: Academic vocabulary

My second reason why our school should participate in “shut down your screen week” is, technology is making humans dumber. So, everyone uses Google, right? Because of this, it’s not making us use our brains. Google doesn’t want us to “slow down” so it give us the easy accessibility to information. We only have to type a couple of word on the screen and we have the information. Because of this, it makes us not use “deep” thinking. So we don’t have to think very hard about getting information.

Comment [KD3]: Basic transition between paragraphs

Comment [KD4]: Domain-specific vocabulary

Comment [KD5]: Internal transition

My last reason why our school should participate in “shut down your screen week” is, technology may make us forget stuff. About 2000 years ago there was a guy by the name so Socrates, and he was worried about writing. He would think that student would become forgetful of stuff they learned, if they wrote it down. Instead of using their memories to remember it. So they forget everything they learned. Technology is doing the same thing, but no on realizes it.

Comment [KD6]: Uncited reference to passage set

Comment [KD7]: Uncited reference to passage set

Our school should participate in “shut down your screen week” Reason for this are: one People have fewer real relationships with humans, that 20 years ago. Second Technology is making people dumber. And third technology can make us forget stuff. I think that all school should participate in this, because it could be a really good thing. Putting down your phones and turning off the TV might really help with reconnecting people because into reality.

Comment [KD8]: Claim restated

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

This essay makes an argument, but often drifts to descriptions of perceived problems with technology rather than focusing on the benefits of “Shut Down Your Screen Week.” It has a very basic organizational structure, including an ineffectively formulaic introduction and conclusion. No counterclaim is clearly addressed in the text. The essay makes use of rudimentary transitions between paragraphs (“My first reason why...”) and some internal transitions within paragraphs to indicate the text structure and organization.

The essay refers to evidence from the passage set but does not cite the sources. In some cases, evidence is used erroneously. The essay makes some attempts at elaboration, but relies more on background knowledge than information from the passage set. The essay deploys some academic vocabulary (“multiple”) and domain-specific vocabulary (“accessibility”), but does not achieve a formal tone or style appropriate to the audience.

While editing errors are evident, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.

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Should every school have a “Shut Down Your Screen Week”? First of all, what is a “Shut Down Your Screen Week”? It is a week where not one student uses any electronics for five days of school. So no, we should not have a “Shut Down Your Screen Week” at all. Obviously, many teachers believe we only use our phones for social media, but we really don’t. We can use our electronics for good things, like finding research on a school project, using a calculator for math, or even being able to be in contact with your parents.

Comment [KD1]: Domain-specific vocabulary

Comment [KD2]: Claim

First having our phones and electronics with us at school is not such a bad thing. We are in the 21st century, if we have the sources, why not use them? Everyone nowadays has a cellphone, that’s how we can easily keep in touch with our friends and loved ones. Keith Hampton, from the American Sociological Association, says, “The constant feed from our online social circles is the modern front porch.” Maybe we have an emergency at school and need to call our parents or an adult? How would we be able to do that with no electronics during “Shut Down Your Screen Week”? We never know when there can be an emergency.

Comment [KD3]: Quotation cited with author tag

Second, the internet on our electronics can help us with our homework. Every term, and every semester there is always that one project we just cannot do on our own. So what can we turn to? Yes, parents can be useful, but they can’t help with everything, so we go to the internet. Homework can be hard, and the internet is an excellent way to help. There are a ton of websites that are awesome with handing out useful information. In the article, “Is Google Making Us Stupid?”, it says, “The Internet contains the world’s best writing, images, and ideas; it lets us find the relevant pieces instantly.” Without the internet, a lot of students wouldn’t have half of their work right, or even turned in.

Comment [KD4]: Transition between paragraphs

Comment [KD5]: Quotation cited with title tag

However, I can see why some might believe having a “Shut Down Your Screen Week” can be good for us students. Teachers get angry when they see a phone, and if it is their wish to not see any electronics in their classroom, then they should have their wish granted. And there are also some students who wouldn’t mind having a week without electronics, but those are mostly the kids who don’t have an electronic. And in the end, how would the teachers like it if we confiscated their electronics from them for a whole week every time we saw them out?

Comment [KD6]: Transition to exploration of counterclaims

Comment [KD7]: Internal transition within paragraph

Comment [KD8]: Academic vocabulary

Lastly, “Shut Down Your Screen Week” would not be a good fit for many schools. We depend on our phones. Electronics can be good. And there are so many things that can go wrong with a week without any screens. Electronics don’t have to be used for only social media. “Shut Down Your Screen Week” should not even be considered in any schools, for many reasons.

Comment [KD9]: Claim restated

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

This essay makes a strong, concise argument and focuses exclusively 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 number of possible counterclaims are addressed in the fourth paragraph. The progression of ideas is logical and communicated to the reader with transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and among ideas (internal transitions within the paragraphs).

The essay uses quotations from the passage set as evidence to support its claims and cites the sources in various ways. 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 (“a ton of websites that are awesome”), but the use of academic (“confiscated”) and domain-specific (“social media”) vocabulary helps to achieve a more appropriate formal tone and style.

While some editing errors are evident, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.

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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.

Comment [KD1]: Claim

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.

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

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.

Comment [KD10]: Transition to counterclaim

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

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.

Comment [KD12]: Reiteration of claim

8th 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.

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There has been a lot of people complaining about media these days such as Parents, teachers, etc. They want to organize a national movement called “Shut Down Your Screen Week.” For us students, social media is pretty important to us. For I think that we should not have this because now days we don’t just use it for games and for Facebook or Instagram. Some people see it in a different way. Kids sometimes use it to look up grades or to search something up in the Safari. Also it helps with communicating, getting sources for what they need, and gaining knowledge by watching our current events that are happening daily.

Comment [KD1]: Claim

It doesn’t matter what kind of device you have but what matters is that kids use these devices for help and sources so that when they need a question answered, they can look back at their devices for it. Students are also able to email there teachers if they need to or use the school webpage to help with homework or a project. Media helps open our minds and think a little more about our work. Some apps can be distracting at times but other apps or other folders can help store things for us and help us remember things rather than having to write it down and either forget about or just not use it. Media is very important to some students whether it’s for a good reason or not.

These devices can be very good tools for some things. For an example: you can download books, you can use YouTube for needing to watch a video on how to do something or just things like that. Some of these things we have come with sources that we have to use daily like a calculator, camera, safari (google), music, message, helpful subject apps, etc. The devices these days seem like they are bad for children and aren’t helping with their education but they really are just in different ways. I mean, who doesn’t love google? It’s got everything you need and you can access it at any given time. Now I understand you get distracted, we understand less, remember less and learn less but in the end it all comes down to one point. Whether we want to do something with our lives or not.

Also, a lot of today’s current events are very important for us to know and we wouldn’t want to miss then especially if it’s a worldwide thing. Think about how much chaos and confusion there would be. People would be stressed all the time not being able to know what’s going on in the real world. Google doesn’t want us to slow down because the faster we zip across the Web, clicking links and skimming words and pictures, the more ads Google is able to show us and the more money it makes. By just getting apps, we are getting smarter every day and they are making more money for our world.

Although, some people say this would be good because students would get out more and be more productive in the things they do. It may help a little with stress and bullying but think about how much more stress there would without having the social media to having social media. Yes, a lot of people today aren’t getting along because of social media but at least they are keeping their minds thinking and making them work and smarter.

Comment [KD2]: Transition to counterclaim

Comment [KD3]: Domain specific vocabulary

In conclusion, I think we should not have this “Shut Down Your Screen Week.” It just wouldn’t be right for the students and it would just put a lot of stress towards them and they wouldn’t be able to communicate with their teachers or parents and that would really cause problems. It is very important to have social media these days because of the technology and how it can help us these days.

Comment [KD4]: Claim restated

8th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	3
Evidence/Elaboration	1
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes an argument and generally focuses on the prompt. It has an adequate organizational structure, including a weak introduction, somewhat muddled body, and stronger conclusion. A counterclaim is acknowledged and addressed in the fifth paragraph. The essay makes some use of transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and among ideas (internal transitions within the paragraphs) to show the text structure and organization.

The essay exclusively uses background knowledge to support its claims. No reference is made to information from the passage set. The essay makes little use of academic vocabulary but does use a number of domain-specific terms (“social media”).

While errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics are present, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.

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Our school should not participate in “Shut Down Your Screen Week”. Many websites have the knowledge that we need every day. There’s a wide variety of different websites that people need answers from. Many teenagers have smartphones, and most of the students use social media on their phones.

Comment [KD1]: Claim

Many people learn lots from the internet. Websites can have lots of things to learn from them. The internet has changed many people’s lives. In the article “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” it says, “Writing has improved our law, science, arts, culture, and our memory.” Our computers that we use today can hold lots of information. Even our phones can bring up the internet with millions of sources. Whether someone is doing an assignment or looking up something for fun, there are many different things to get answers from. The internet is good because we can find things for our work.

Comment [KD2]: Quotation cited with title tag

In the passage “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” it says, “Today, Google is the new technology. The Internet contains the world’s best writing, images, and ideas; Google lets us find the relevant pieces instantly.” Google is a very well-known company that has a lot of sources. The websites come up in a matter of seconds. If a person were to type in something that they need an answer to, at least thousands of sources will come up. Answers can be found anywhere, not just Google. Turning of the screens for a week could cause lots of trouble.

Comment [KD3]: Academic vocabulary

“Social Media as Community” says, “Because of cellphones and social media, those we depend on are more accessible today than at any point since we lived in small, village-like settlements.” Smartphones have many social medias that can be downloaded. Many teenagers use at least one network. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat are all a social media. They all have the access to socialize with other people. Many people use texting too. Many people use texting, it’s an easy way to talk to friends or family. If there were no screens for a week, students wouldn’t be to talk to each other with their phones. A phone can also be for emergencies. If something were to come up, the student could call their family or someone else. People can’t do that if they can’t be on their phones.

Comment [KD4]: Domain-specific vocabulary

A week of no screens could also be a good reason. “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” says, “If we’re distracted, we understand less, remember less, and learn less. When we use our computers and our cellphones all the time, we’re always distracted.” A phone can be very distracting from work. Students could be distracted from their homework because they’re always on social media. Even though social media is sometimes bad, it helps a lot. There’s always a person or a friend to talk to.

In conclusion, “Shut down Your Screen Week” is a bad idea. Websites like Google get used every day to find answers. We can learn from sources whenever. Social media is not always bad and can be used for good reasons. Many people could not stand having no screen for a week.

Comment [KD5]:

8th Grade Argument: SAGE Writing Rubric Scores	
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	3
Evidence/Elaboration	3
Conventions/Editing	2

This essay makes an adequate argument that focuses for the most part on the prompt. It has a clear organizational structure, including an acceptable introduction and conclusion that state the claim. A counterclaim is addressed in the fifth paragraph. The essay makes minimal use of transitions between ideas (transitions at the beginning/ends of paragraphs) and among ideas (internal transitions within the paragraphs) to show the text structure and organization.

The essay uses quotations from the passage set and cites them using author and title tags. However, these quotations are often unrelated to the line of reasoning and are not always integrated successfully. The essay makes adequate attempts at elaboration, but sometimes drifts into embellishment. The essay makes use of academic (“sources”) and domain-specific (“social media”) vocabulary and maintains an appropriate style and tone for the audience.

While some editing errors are evident, they do not rise to the level of obscuring the meaning of the text.