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General English IV

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Compare and contrast paper reading with electronic reading

Electronic reading, the replacer of paper reading as mainstream reading method in the future

As the advent of electronic device, electronic reading has risen and gained more and more popularity. Almost everyone will do some reading every day and, therefore, can not avoid the choice between paper reading and electronic reading. There are mainly two opinions on the two methods of reading. Some advocate the traditional paper reading, convinced that it can bring the readers the best reading experience and effect, while others regard electronic reading as a more advanced reading method that conforms the trend of the times. Actually, there is a high possibility that electronic reading will replace paper reading to become the mainstream method of reading in the future due to its advantages such as convenience and environmental-friendliness.

One of the most important reasons that electronic reading is better than the paper reading is its rich available resources. In the era of information explosion, there is often the case that people need to obtain and process oceans of information. In this situation, it is difficult for paper reading to satisfy people’s need for massive information because the amount of the books at one’s hand is always very limited.

However, once one chooses electronic reading and has a device connecting to the Internet, inexhaustible reading materials will be available and the reader can select any one he needs or has interest in. Therefore, electronic reading can offer the readers far more reading materials than paper reading.

Compared with paper reading, electronic reading also excels at convenience. Electronic reading materials require less room to store and energy to transport because the electronic device increased the information storage density dramatically. As a result, thousands of books can be saved in one electronic reading device no more than half a pound, which is particularly inviting for those who travel around. Anyway, most people would prefer to carry a portable kindle than a pile of big books. Therefore, electronic reading allows people to store and carry reading materials easily and read everywhere, which is more convenient than if choosing paper reading.

Besides, electronic reading has less impact on the environment than paper reading. Our globe is faced with the serious problem of vegetation reduction which threats our further development and it is common sense that paper books need lots of woods and water and cause much pollution in their production process. In contrast, devices for electronic reading require relatively less material and power to work. In this way, electronic reading behaves friendlier to the environment than paper reading.

There is no doubt that electronic reading has outstanding advantages in the aspects discussed above. However, some people still have concern about the efficiency of reading on electronic device because there were some articles that had

claimed that paper reading makes readers more concentrated and have a better memory of the content than electronic reading (Mangena et al. 61). However, according to recent researches, it has proved that for those who like or get accustomed to electronic reading, the “screen inferiority” can be overcome (Myrberg et al. 49).

Electronic reading is a wiser choice than paper reading, which enjoys the unsurpassed superiority of more available resources, convenience and environmental-friendliness over the paper reading. Therefore, it is certain that electronic reading is gong to become the mainstream method of reading in the near future.

Works Cited

Mangena, Anne, et al. “*Reading linear texts on paper versus computer screen: Effects on reading comprehension.*” International Journal of Educational Research, Vol. 58, Dec 2013, pp. 61-68.

Myrberg, Caroline, et al. “*Screen vs. paper: what is the difference for reading and learning?*” Insights, Vol. 28, no. 2, 2015, pp. 49-54.