

Direct Assessment of Writing

Grade 8

Persuasive

Writing 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.

When you write, be sure to

- state your opinion about the effects of computers.
- give detailed reasons that will persuade readers of the local newspaper to agree with your position.
- organize your ideas well and present them clearly.

General Guidelines:

- The grade seven and eight written responses are first drafts written by students in forty-five minutes in reaction to a prompt designed to elicit persuasive writing. Trained readers score these timed responses holistically, which means that they determine a score based on the overall impression most often gained from a single reading of the response.
- This rubric outlines a six-point scale. Each score point on that scale is described by an overall statement which captures the essence of the response. The elements of the response (elaboration, organization, fluency and audience awareness) that are *typical* for that score point are described below the overall statement. Individual responses may be stronger in one feature and weaker in another. In other words, the list of features at each score point, while helpful, cannot perfectly describe every response in a score-point category.
- A committee of expert readers uses this rubric as a guide to select anchor papers for each score point. Anchor papers are examples of actual student work. The committee prepares an anchor set composed of several papers at each score point. They deliberately select papers to show an appropriate range of writing skill for each score point and to represent the variety of approaches students take when addressing the writing prompt. Trained readers rely heavily on these anchor sets to guide their scoring.
- Errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage are not considered as part of the criteria for scoring writing samples. Also, papers receive a score based on the work the student did complete even if they seem to be unfinished. Because the writing sample is a timed response, it is generally assumed that these errors and omissions could have been corrected if the student had been given an opportunity to revise and edit. Readers are therefore trained to read through these errors when they score student papers.

Score Point 1: An undeveloped response that may take a position but offers no more than very minimal support.

Typical elements:

- Contains few or vague details.
- Is awkward and fragmented.
- May be difficult to read and understand.
- May show no awareness of audience.

Score Point 2: An under-developed response that may or may not take a position.

Typical elements:

- Contains only general reasons with unelaborated and/or list-like details.
- Shows little or no evidence of organization.
- May be awkward and confused or simplistic.
- May show little awareness of audience.

Score Point 3: A minimally-developed response that may take a position, but with inadequate support and details.

Typical elements:

- Has reasons with minimal elaboration and more general than specific details.
- Shows some organization.
- May be awkward in parts with few transitions.
- Shows some awareness of audience.

Score Point 4: A somewhat-developed response that takes a position and provides adequate support.

Typical elements:

- Has adequately elaborated reasons with a mix of general and specific details.
- Shows satisfactory organization.
- May be somewhat fluent with some transitional language.
- Shows adequate awareness of audience.

Score Point 5: A developed response that takes a clear position and provides reasonably persuasive support.

Typical elements:

- Has moderately well elaborated reasons with mostly specific details.
- Exhibits generally strong organization.
- May be moderately fluent with transitional language throughout.
- May show a consistent awareness of audience.

Score Point 6: A well-developed response that takes a clear and thoughtful position and provides persuasive support.

Typical elements:

- Has fully elaborated reasons with specific details.
- Exhibits strong organization.
- Is fluent and uses sophisticated transitional language.
- May show a heightened awareness of audience.

Score Point 1: An undeveloped response that may take a position but offers no more than very minimal support.

Typical elements:

- Contains few or vague details.
- Is awkward and fragmented.
- May be difficult to read and understand.
- May show no awareness of audience.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear, Record Journal

I think that computers benefit you in many ways. They help you learn better, you can develop a better memory. They can also show you how to get to a proxy.

I think all schools should have computers in the classroom.

Sincerely,

Score Point: 1

This is an undeveloped response with few details. The writer states that computers benefit society in many ways and provides a few unelaborated reasons (you learn better; you develop a better memory; show you how to get to a proxy). The response is brief with minimal support; more elaboration is needed for a higher score.



DIRECTIONS

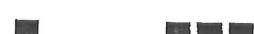
G-6

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

I think that computers do not have an effect on people cause people can get off their computers anytime they want. But I think computers are good to have. You can cash your check from the computer. You can talk to people. And you also can even get a job. So I !

Score Point: 1

The writer of this undeveloped response believes that computers do not have an effect on people (people can get off their computers anytime they want) but are good to have for a few reasons (you can cash your check, talk to people, get a job). The response is brief with very minimal support; more development is needed for a higher score.



Score Point 2: An under-developed response that may or may not take a position.

Typical elements:

- Contains only general reasons with unelaborated and/or list-like details.
- Shows little or no evidence of organization.
- May be awkward and confused or simplistic.
- May show little awareness of audience.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Hi my name is Jr I heard about how some people think that computers are affecting peoples health and other things. I personally think that computers are just fine. Computers help people do things the easier way. If someone has to do college homework they can complete it on the computer. I think that family and friends can always communicate. All they have to do is make up an e-mail address and sign up. And that is why I think that computers are just fine.

Score Point: 2

This is an under-developed response. The writer states the position that "computers are just fine" and provides three reasons in support (do things the easier way; do college homework; communicate with family and friends). The first two reasons are unelaborated, but the third includes a brief extension (make up an e-mail address and sign up). There is little evidence of organization, but there is enough development for a "2".



DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Do I think computers are bad for people? I think it is because people spend too much time on it than rather going outside and exercising. I think computer are addictive because once you go in the computer you don't want to get off. I think its bad because it damages your eyes. This is why its bad for people to use computers a lot.

I think by spending time on computer they start changing by not exercising. I think its the entertainment in the computer like the websites the games and other different kinds of things.

Score Point: 2

This writer takes the position that computers are bad for people and provides a few reasons supported with some specific details (damages your eyes, websites and games). However, there is little evidence of organization, and the response is under developed overall. More elaboration is needed for a higher score.



DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Computers have negative and positive consequences. For example kids who play on the computer when they get home instead of doing their homework might have bad grades in school, but the upside to computers is that if they need help because they don't understand it and their parents don't understand it, then they can use their computer to help them. Also computers help us with multiple things like taxes, homework, projects for work or school, and many, many more things. People think that computers are extremely bad but the help you more than anything.

Score Point: 2

This writer thinks that computers have both negative (bad grades in school) and positive effects (help with homework). Much of the elaboration is either general (they don't understand it) or list-like (taxes, homework, projects for work or school), and the response is under developed overall. Some organization is demonstrated through the use of basic transitions (for example, also), but more elaboration is needed for a higher score.



Score Point 3: A minimally-developed response that may take a position, but with inadequate support and details.

Typical elements:

- Has reasons with minimal elaboration and more general than specific details.
- Shows some organization.
- May be awkward in parts with few transitions.
- Shows some awareness of audience.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear Editor,

I think it wouldn't be a good idea for most people. Like let's start with kids, they love games so computers has a lot of games so they would want one, but it's also a bad side of letting them use the computer to long. See kids have very sensitive eyes just like teenagers, but teens are more grown than the little ones. That's how kid's get their eyes damaged. Now teens, were more grown up but we could still get our eyes damaged. It's by using the computer, cause they only go on the computer for MySpace and MySpace has a lot of typt word's in MySpace and that's how teen's get their eye's damaged. Now adults are all grown and ready to do whatever they want to do. But they can also damage their eye's. This is why I think using the computer a long time is bad thing.

- Score Point: 3
- This is a minimally-developed response with inadequate support and detail. The writer takes the position that computers can be harmful to the eyes and then addresses eye damage to three groups of people (kids, teens, adults). A few specific details are included (sensitive eyes, MySpace), but elaboration is minimal. Some organization is demonstrated but few transitions are used. Overall, the response is sufficiently developed to move into the score point "3" range.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear NEWS paper,

I think that the computers are good. they let you talk to people on line. They let you learn about far away places. Also they can help you with school.

People can talk to other people on the internet. like they can go on myspace or Email their friends or family that live far away. For example ; have a friend that lives in Florida and I used to talk to talk to him on myspace until he moved over here to connecticut.

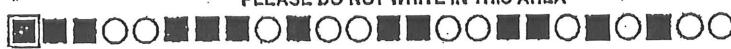
Another good thing is that you could learn about far away places. like you could go on a fake trip to egypt or brazil. you could see a lot of pictures of different places. it would be a nice experience.

Finally I think computers are good because they can help you with school. They can do this because they will help you get information for things.

this is why i think
we should use computers.

Score Point: 3

The writer of this minimally-developed response thinks that computers have a positive effect on people and presents three reasons in support (talking to other people on the internet; learning about far away places; helping with school). Some specific details are provided (MySpace; Egypt or Brazil), but the elaboration is inadequate and often general (help you get information for things). The response shows some organization, but more specific development is needed for a higher score.



DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

My opinion about the effects of computers
 is that it all depends on
 how you spend your time. For example I spend
 my time mostly outside but also go on the
 computer. On the other hand my Cuzin is inside
 24 hours every day and spends about 8 to 10
 hours on the computer a day. There are
 a veritoly of options to get your child
 off the computer. But first the parents have
 to give them a time limit. If they don't they
 would be glued to the screen. But on the
 other side it is true that you could learn about
 things like other people, other countries, technically,
 anything you would like. But there are
 certain "things" you don't want your kids
 looking at so get security. That is
 all I can say but things about what
 I said and also try to get
 them into sports.

Score Point: 3

This writer takes the position that the effects of computers are different for everyone (it all depends on how you spend your time) and offers suggestions to parents to get their child off the computer (give them a time limit; get security; get them into sports). The response is minimally developed with inadequate support. Stronger organization and more development are needed for a higher score.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear Mr Villager,

I've been discussing about computer and if they are a benefit or not. Well I say they aren't really a benefit. Computer can really help hand eye coordination, but if you were to go to someones house there's an 90% chance that if they're on the computer they won't be using it using it for hand eye coordination.

Most people use computers to T.M or just to mess around. What these people could be doing is biking, jogging, lifting weight, playing sports, etc. instead of eating twinkies in front of a computer. There are benefits to a computer people just never really realize them.

There are many things someone could be doing besides staring mindlessly at a computer

playing a game like theres no tomorrow. people are wasting there life if all they do is stare at a computer. What did people do before computers how about before electronics, cry about how theres nothing to stare mindlessly at, so they exercised the ran & biked and found some thing that was actually worth while.

From,

Score Point: 3

This writer thinks that computers do not benefit people and offers several examples to support this position. While there are some specific ideas (eating Twinkies in front of the computer, staring mindlessly at a computer), elaboration is mostly general (people are wasting their life) and sometimes repetitive (jogging and biking). The response demonstrates some organization, but the elaboration is minimal overall. More specific development is needed for a higher score.



Score Point 4: A somewhat-developed response that takes a position and provides adequate support.

Typical elements:

- Has adequately elaborated reasons with a mix of general and specific details.
- Shows satisfactory organization.
- May be somewhat fluent with some transitional language.
- Shows adequate awareness of audience.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear Times,

Some people say that computers are the entertainment of the future. I agree with this statement.

Computers teach us many things and it is great that we get to learn all this information.

For one thing, computers teach people to have better hand-eye coordination. I have a friend who has great coordination from just browsing the web. It makes your hand muscles stronger too from all the clicking and mouse moving.

Another reason why I think computers are great is that it helps us learn about far away places. If you want to see the Andes of Chile you don't have to actually go there; you can look it up on the web. If you want to



know what Venus' or Mars' surface looks like, you can look it up. It saves so much time and energy that way.

Lastly, computers allow you to online chat with friends and family. I actually have a sister that is studying abroad in Chile right now, and we can even talk to her with a webcam! That's a videocamera so we can see and hear each other. It's awesome! It gives me the feeling that she is close to me.

Computers have connected the world to one another. It allows people to see all over the world and to access information about anything. I'm apart of that connection. Will you be?

Score Point: 4

This is a somewhat-developed response in which the writer addresses three positive benefits of computers (better hand-eye coordination; learning about faraway places; chatting with friends and family). Elaboration is an adequate mix of general and specific details (clicking and mouse moving; The Andes of Chile; talk to her with a webcam). Organization is satisfactory, and there is enough development for a "4."

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear

Advocate,

I think that people do spend enough time on the computer. They could be outside playing. But instead they sit on a chair focusing on a computer screen. Yes, sometimes it can be fun on the computer. I go on it, I mean everyone in the world goes on the computer now.

But too much of the computer can ruin your life, sort of. When it's 85 outside and you're on the computer all day it's a waste. When you could be running outside or playing football. But instead you have to waste a beautiful day to the computer once again.

Children play games and look at how their favorite sports player is doing. Well instead of sitting at a computer and look how he is doing, they should do the sport. I don't think any sportstar would want one of their fans sitting at a computer all day looking up how he is doing. They would want them to go outside.

I don't think that the parents of the child should force him/her off. They should just encourage them to do something else. If you do encourage him/her mabey children can realise I don't need a computer. I just thought I had a boring day but I made it that away from sitting on a computer all day. Then they might just go out and play for a little bit.

So please. Advocate can you please accept my article and put it in your newspaper. Because there are to many children on the computer. Mabey this article could change that. So please. Can you accept my article.

From,

Score Point: 4

In this somewhat-developed response, the writer takes the position that children spend too much time on the computer and presents some negative effects while also providing advice to parents on how to help. Elaboration is an adequate mix of general (do something else) and specific details (when it's 85° outside). Organization is satisfactory, though there is minor repetition in the third paragraph, and the response is somewhat fluent. More in-depth and specific development is needed for a higher score.

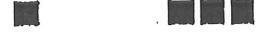
DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Many people say computers don't benefit society! They say computers have no use. I say computers are one of the greatest machines ever invented. You can spend time on it if you're bored. You can use it to gather information for projects. You can even use it to talk to other people. Computers have many uses for us.

Firstly, you can use computers if you're bored. Computers are great if you have nothing to do. You can go to yahoo and make an account so you can get mail. You can go to google and look at pictures. You can even go to youtube, make an account and watch videos. According to a survey, every nine out of ten kids spend time on the computer. That is a lot of people.

Secondly, people use it to gather information. If you have a school project due, you can go to google, yahoo, or ask.com to gather information. When I have school project that need information on people,



I use the internet to find the data. It is said that 8 out of 10 people use the internet for information. That is over 75%.

Finally, you can use it to talk to people. If you make friends on yahoo, you can instant message them. I do that on youtube. People make youtube accounts and create streams. A stream is where you can talk to other users and watch videos at the same time. It is fun. People say that 9 out of 10 people talk to or instant message people. That is 90% of people. That is a lot of people. I am one of those 90%.

In conclusion, the computer benefits society. You can use it when you're bored, use it to gather information, and talk to other people. The computer is a machine I hope stays around for a long time.

Score Point: 4

This writer takes the position that computers have a positive effect on society and presents three ways that computers can be helpful (if you're bored, to gather information, to talk to other people). Elaboration is an adequate mix of general (that's a lot of people) and specific details (go to Google; make YouTube accounts and create streams). Even though there is some repetition, the organization is satisfactory with some use of transitions. Stronger organization and more in-depth development are needed for a higher score.



DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

When it comes to technology, there are mainly two different views people have of it. There are people who feel that people are getting dependent on technology and think that it's bad, and those who think that technology is good in every way. There are good things and bad things about technology, so I thought it would be best to compare the pros and cons of technology to see if it's really more trouble than it's worth, or if it's one of the best things ever.

First, the good things about technology include communication, knowledge, and entertainment. Before there were cars and phones, it would take awhile for people in different places to communicate important news to each other. Now you can get in touch with friends and family by pressing a screen. Also, the internet is a great way to learn things about places that, if not for technology, people may have never known existed. And there are lots of people who like to listen to music and watch movies, and unless they could sing or act, they would find it very hard to have fun. These are just a few of the good things about technology.

The bad things about technology, to name a few, are how people are getting dependent on technology, or are not getting enough exercise because they spend all day indoors on the couch watching TV or at the computer sending IM's. Also, many people die because of car accidents or house fires occur because an electric socket was over-loaded or a computer overheated so much it caught fire. These are just problems with basic technology. Not to mention that people will be forgetful manners by talking on the phone at the dinner table or ignoring someone while watching TV. It's really not the best thing for society.

In conclusion, the pros and cons of technology both have some pretty good points, but I believe that technology is good for the world, because with it, people are going into space or researchers try and find cures for diseases. Technology has helped the world way more than hurt it.

Score Point: 4

The writer of this somewhat-developed response chooses to examine both the positive and negative effects of technology as a whole before concluding that technology is a benefit to society. Elaboration is an adequate mix of general (learn things about places) and specific details (an electric socket overloaded or a computer overheated). Satisfactory organization is demonstrated through the use of transitional language, and the response is somewhat fluent. Many examples are provided, but more in-depth and specific development is needed for a higher score.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

25b 2830859



2830859

Score Point 5: A developed response that takes a clear position and provides reasonably persuasive support.

Typical elements:

- Has moderately well elaborated reasons with mostly specific details.
- Exhibits generally strong organization.
- May be moderately fluent with transitional language throughout.
- May show a consistent awareness of audience.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear

Post,

Advances in technology don't always benefit the society. People are spending way too much time on their computers. They aren't spending enough time with their family or exercising. Also, while they're on their computers, forests are being cut down. Advances in computers will just make matters worse for society.

People aren't spending enough time with their families, and computers are a main reason. It is known that people who spend time with family are more successful. In fact, recent studies show that family time increases grade levels by 15%, and reduces crime rates by 38%. However, people who spend too much time alone on the computer are more likely to have worse grades and/or become a criminal. Computers are taking away too much family time.

People who spend a lot of time on the computer aren't realizing the harm that's being done to nature. Connecting with nature makes people more caring, but forests are being destroyed. This mass destruction of nature causes many risks. It can affect the air quality, it destroys animals habitats, and it ruins chances for new products and medicines. The destruction of nature must be stopped, and sitting at your computer is just making it worse.

People aren't exercising enough, but rather look at the computer all day. Exercise is key to staying healthy. People who rarely exercise have a 27% increased chance of getting obese, having heart problems, and getting cancer. On the other hand, people who exercise 2-4 times a week are proven to live up to 19 years longer than those who don't. People have to stop surfing the web and start running on a treadmill.

It is proven that advances are simply going

to make the lives of people, trees and animals worse. People aren't spending time with family, saving nature, or exercising. These key things aren't getting done and computers aren't helping at all. If the internet is used, it should be used for making trips for the family, or finding ways to save nature and exercise.

Score Point: 5

This developed response contains three moderately well elaborated reasons that explain why computers do not benefit society (not spending enough time with family; causing harm to nature; not exercising enough). Each reason is elaborated with mostly specific details (family time increases grade level by 15% and reduces crime rates by 38%). The response exhibits generally strong organization with transitional language throughout and is moderately fluent. There is enough specific development for a score of "5".



DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear News Paper,

I believe the effects of computers on people are good ones. I think this because, It gives the user a chance to look something up fast, get intouch with other users, and also if the user could use the computer to educate themselves.

The effects of computers on people are not always bad for example you can use it to look something up fast. For example my cousin bob was unsure about a local movie time so he went on the internet and found it in a matter of minutes. But he's not the only one who has found the internet useful for a quick find. In fact it was surveyed that 1 out of 10 people use the internet daily for a quick find. Dr. Peter Griffin says "Without the internet we would be lost." Do you want people to have a bad effect from not benefiting from using computers? I believe that

another good effect from using computers is being able to get in touch with people. Just last week I was in need for help on homework. My friend has an Email address so I Emailed him my question and then he helped me out. But I'm not the only one who has benefited from being able to get in touch with someone when I was in need. In fact 90% of computer users today are able to chat with friends and get help. Dr. James Turner says "Without the use of computers half of the world would not talk." Do you want a negative effect from being outside too much? Computers benefit our society by being able to educate anyone. Last month there was a TV special about a man who never went to college. Then there was an online college program that he could do from home. He got his diploma. But he isn't the only one who has been educated on the computer. In fact 10 out of 20 people have gotten their college

Diploma over the internet. Ischool teacher Dr. Wapamur says "half our world would not be educated if it wasn't for computers." Do you want our world filled with uneducated people? Some may say computers can cause a obsession, or mail cause people to get obese. But people in our society do benefit every day from being able to look something up fast, get in touch with other users, and get educated over the internet.

Sincerely,

A local Society member

Score Point: 5

The writer of this developed response takes the position that computers have a positive effect on society. Each of the three reasons are moderately well elaborated using mostly specific details that include personal examples (just last week I was in need of help on homework), statistics (10 out of 20 people have gotten their college diploma over the internet), and quotations. Effective transitional language (in fact; but I'm not the only one) contributes to the overall fluency of the response, and organization is generally strong. More in-depth elaboration is needed for a "6."



DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Have you ever wondered how much time you spend on the computer each day? Have computers ever gotten in the way of the more important things in life? Mostly all people would agree that computers don't always have a benefit to them. Even I completely agree that computers have a very lacking effect on people. This is because the time spent on computers usually cuts into time spent in exercise, travelling and exploring the world, and especially with their beloved family and friends.

First off, many Americans almost never get enough time to exercise daily. About 53% of America's population, any age, is overweight. This probably has came to a result because of the recent advances in technology such as computers. Would you rather spend your whole life being unfit,

while you could be healthy and happy about yourself? I'm not sure about the rest of America, but I would much rather be healthy and fit. Computers and other new technology have made us pick them over "old-fashioned" exercising! Healthy is to ^{in your lifestyle} enjoying life as unhealthy is discouragement. Don't let computers get in the way of your ~~EXERCISING~~ goals and dreams!

Another reason not to use computers so often is so you can explore the wonderful plant of Earth! There are so many better things you could be doing that are much more exciting than computers! For example, The Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is a gorgeous and breath-taking landmark. Instead of researching about this majestic canyon, you could be visiting it! "A great deal of people in America have never been outside their state. There's so much more to explore these days!" says ^{executive} tour guide of The Great Wall of



China, Ron Falks. Experts like Ron know how much time on Earth we all have, which is extremely minimal, so he is trying to persuade everyone to travel and explore, before it's too late!

Last but definitely not least, if you're on the computer all year long, how will you ever spend ~~time~~ ^{time} with your beloved family and dear friends? Last year, my best friend was supposed to have a family gathering with her relatives from Oregon, who she barely even sees once a year. She refused to go since her parents wouldn't let her on the internet the whole day. As simple as that, computers can tear apart families. More than 60% of people around the world never get to see one side of their family. What is the cause of this? Could it be highly advanced computers and laptops? Of course!

In conclusion, computers are not beneficial for the people of America because this time could be spent exercising, travelling the vast world, and spending time with family and friends. Don't let computers get in the way of your life - act now!



Score Point: 5

In this developed response, the writer takes the position that computers have had a negative effect on society and addresses three ways that computer time is cutting into more important things (exercising; traveling and exploring; family and friends). These reasons are moderately well elaborated with mostly specific details (53% of America's population is overweight) and effective rhetorical questions. The response is fluent and exhibits strong organization. More development is needed for a "6."

Score Point 6: A well-developed response that takes a clear and thoughtful position and provides persuasive support.

Typical elements:

- Has fully elaborated reasons with specific details.
- Exhibits strong organization.
- Is fluent and uses sophisticated transitional language.
- May show a heightened awareness of audience.

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

Dear Readers,

Recently, I have heard many grumblings about technology, and what it is doing ~~to our~~ culture. Although some people believe that these changes are for the worse, I can tell you that computers are the future, and we need to embrace it. Computers have many benefits, such as improvement to hand-eye coordination, instant and endless information, and great ways to stay in touch with friends.

It may surprise you to know that computers are a great way to improve your hand-eye coordination. Typing is a valued skill in today's world, and spending time on the computer is the only way to hone it. Schools even have classes these days that are designed solely for typing skills. Don't believe that typing improves hand-eye coordination? Try writing an essay without looking down at your hands, then re-assess.

your hand-eye coordination skills.

One of my favorite things about the computer is the instant information. You are always only a few clicks away from anything you want to know. Want to find the year of George Washington's death? Or perhaps where the longest bridge is located? Any simple question can be answered through the internet. The best part is; you don't have to get in your car, drive to the library, and then spend hours poring through books. You simply log on to a search engine or database and type in your question. Plus, the internet can teach you how to do anything. Easter is around the corner, and my mom looked up how to fold a napkin to look like a bunny! As you can see, with the internet at your fingertips, information is endless.

Possibly the best aspect of the computer is how it allows you to keep in touch with your friends who have moved far away. Although you may never see them



In person, you can always use a web camera to talk to them face to face through a live chat. Also, you can send them emails which are quicker than letters. Unlike phone calls, which can't be expensive, emails don't run up any bills. In addition, you will never have to leave another message again, because you can check your emails at your own leisure.

You must agree ~~all~~ with me; the pros of the computer outweigh the cons by a ton. Today's modern technology allows you to instantly improve hand-eye coordination, get information, and connect with friends. Technology is advancing, and it is for the better.

Sincerely,

Score Point: 6

This writer states that "computers are the future, and we need to embrace it" and presents three reasons in support (improvement to hand-eye coordination; instant and endless information; ways to stay in touch with friends). Each reason is fully elaborated with specific details (search engine or database; how to fold a napkin to look like a bunny) and personal examples. Effective word choice (hone, re-assess, at your own leisure) and rhetorical questions (want to find the year of George Washington's death?) contribute to the fluency and specificity of the response. Organization is strong with sophisticated transitional language, and the response is well developed enough for a "6."

DIRECTIONS

Begin writing your paper on the lines below. Only what you write on pages 5 through 7 will be scored.

G-27A

Dear fellow readers,

I have heard about how people think computers are becoming a problem, which they are. But now think about your life without a computer. You won't be able to communicate with your far away friends cheeply, you wouldn't be able to type, and you won't be kept up to date. A computer is a very helpful tool and I am here to help you realize it.

What?! Stacey! Did you say you were moving to Japan?! Have you ever walked into school just to hear that your best friend is moving to some far away land. Maybe not, but it has happened to me and a lot of other people plenty of times. $\frac{4}{5}$ of my school have had a friend move far away. And they all say that they will never see or hear from them again until they remember e-mail. With e-mail you can communicate with your next door neighbor or someone half way across the globe. If you are grounded and your parents took away your phone,



don't worry! You still can count on e-mail. Plus, e-mailing is much less expensive than calling your Aunt in Russia. Any sympathetic person would realize that a computer is one helpful tool that you can't live without. There is another way that the computer saves you again too, so all you messy or slow writers just might want to read on.

Have you ever been in a situation where your teacher announces a big test and tells you to study off your notes? And then you realize your notes are too messy and foreign looking to even read? If you have a computer then you can just type them up. $\frac{2}{3}$ of my friends have messy hand writing so they type on the computer instead. This is so much easier than using a typewriter too. You can backspace and print more than one copy with a computer. With all of you people who write slow, just bring a lab top to class and type your notes. I write slow but I can type faster than I can talk. We've covered

that the computers are useful but they are also educational.

All kids from the 21st century have memories of playing fun computer games when they were little, but what they didn't know was that their parents bought it because it was educational. The computer has a way that teaches kids by having fun. I know I would rather learn my ABC's by playing a computer game rather than repeating them over and over in school. The computer is also educational because if I don't understand a question than I type it in google search and I get a very well thought out answer. You can be kept up to date in the latest fashion trends and political news too. If I'm watching my favorite movie and my mom is missing her favorite news show, than she can just look it up on the computer. Well, you can't get more educational than that!

Now you understand how important the computer is to all people around the world. It helps you communicate with friends, type, and even gives you an education! I know that I am great ful to live in a century that has computers, and you should be too.

From,



Page 7

G-27d

Score Point: 6

This is a well-developed response in which the writer presents several examples of how "a computer is a very helpful tool" (communicate with far away friends; ability to type school work; the computer is educational). Each reason is fully elaborated with specific details (less expensive than calling your aunt in Russia; you can backspace and print more than one copy; latest fashion trends and political news). Strong organization is demonstrated through the use of sophisticated transitional language, and the response is developed enough for a "6."