



Dr. Diaz

Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at a lot of different materials about the role of television programs and television watching in people's lives. But first, I want to know what you think about this topic. So here's a question for the class discussion board: What do you think is the most significant effect that watching television has on people? Why do you think television has this effect?



Kelly

I know that one way that television influences people's behavior is that when you are watching television, you are not moving around or exercising. This is especially true for children. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that when children spend a lot of time watching television, they have a greater tendency to be overweight.



Paul

I think the main effect that television has on people is to broaden their experience. There are so many programs devoted to nature and travel. Think of all the different places in the world you can experience through television! Last night I watched a program about life in Antarctica, and it was fascinating!

XDF Normal Version

I think the most significant effect TV has on people is given them a window to a world other than their own. The thing that set TV apart from other forms of communication is that it is visual. For millennia people have been desperately trying to broaden their understanding of the world through spoken tales and written records, but we have never been able to "see" things with physical presence. This is a barrier in how we obtain knowledge that couldn't possibly be broken before the invention of the television. Although this way of exploring our world has its side-effects (like the obesity problem Kelly mentioned), we cannot say that a side effect is the "most significant effect" of an invention. At least personally, I choose to focus on the good rather than the bad, and think that the way of experiencing the world through our own eyes is the most significant effect of the television.

XDF OP Version

While recognizing the validity of Kelly argument, my perspective on the issue leans more towards Paul on this issue. There are many effects of television, but to discuss the most significant, we need to consider how it has affected the whole population rather than each individual. The biggest impact TV has on our society is that it opened a new way for people to explore the world. With channels like National Geographic and Discovery, we could learn of the wonders of other civilizations and the majestic scenery of places afar. With such experience, we could truly recognize the complexity of this world and give us more perspective when viewing different peoples and cultures. This would make us more knowledgeable and more tolerant, which is the foundation of creating a more civilized society. Although TV has is problems, but it nothing is all good or all bad. It is the duty of the user to make the best use of an invention while side-stepping the potential issues it could bring. This is why, while recognizing Kelly's point on obesity, I still want to believe that the most significant effect of the TV to be the positive effect of helping us to learn more and creating the foundation of a more civilized society.