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Writing 121

Monday, April 8, 2019

**Pinker, Steven. “Mind over Mass Media.” *Everyone’s An Author with Readings,* edited by Andrea Lunsford, et al., W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2017, pp. 1029-1031.**

Summary: Mind over Mass Media

In the article “Mind over Mass Media” by Steven Pinker, the author addresses social concerns as technology continues to change the way we communicate. He focuses his attention on several instances where there seems to be no scientific basis for the alarm despite the hysteria. Pinker expertly debunks several of the most common fears that people express by noting that, as new forms of media have continued to arise, they have been accompanied by increases in IQ and decreases in violence. He reasons that experiences do not fundamentally change the structure of the brain and, as such, the reported effects of electronic media are mostly exaggerated. The author warns against pseudo-science used to agitate anxiety and cautions the reader against the potential conflict of interest legacy media has against new forms of communication. Ultimately, it is concluded by Pinker that human brainpower cannot keep pace with the exponential growth of knowledge and, contrary to the narrative, the only thing that will keep us from becoming feeble-minded are these new technologies.