

Video Games Opinion Writing

Directions: Read and annotate the texts below, then plan and write an opinion multi-paragraph essay answering the prompt.

Name:

Text 1

More than 150 million people in the United States play video games regularly, or for at least 3 hours per week. Scientists recently collected and summarized results from 116 scientific studies to determine how video games can influence our brains and behaviors.

Video game use is known to affect attention. Studies show that video game players have improvement in attention. It also has the effect of developing players' spatial reasoning (determining the distance/size between objects). Spatial reasoning can be useful in many ways, including driving, athletics, construction or art.

Video games have also been shown to have positive effects on the mind such as perception, attention, memory and decision-making. However, the research only focused on the benefits of playing action video games, that is, games that require players to move quickly, keep track of many items at once, hold a lot of information in their minds, and make quick decisions.

Another study showed that video games such as these helped fix a condition known as "lazy eye" that is on the rise among children. Children who suffered from "lazy eye" showed improvement in their condition playing video games.

Text 2

Playing violent video games frequently makes an individual's brain less responsive to violence. This can mean that the individual shows more aggressive or even violent behavior as the brain does not recognize that behavior to be out of the ordinary. After all, it's been watching characters on screen participate in violence over and over again – why would it find it strange?

Researchers have discovered that video gaming can be addictive - a phenomenon known as "Internet gaming disorder." This addiction can lead to depression and isolation, as well as obesity.

A person developing an obsession with video games can play on and on for hours at a time, not even realizing the amount of time he has been spending on it. Gaming can also be extremely distracting from other activities. A person playing video games tends to lose interest in other things he used to enjoy as the video games he's playing take more of his time and attention. Homework? No way. Playing outside? Forget about it.

One of the most common health issues that is faced by most individuals, adults and children alike, addicted to playing video games is obesity. Addicted gamers often face this problem because they tend to sit in one place for a long time and hence their body practically misses out on any kind of physical activity. Being overweight may increase the risk of developing other ailments in the long run such as diabetes, heart disease, etc.

Opinion Writing Prompt As you can see, there are many effects of playing video games. Plan then write a multi-paragraph essay answering the question, "Should children be allowed to play video games?" Answer the question completely and use text evidence to support your reasons. Include an introductory paragraph, 2 Reason (body) paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.