What is an Argumentative Paper?

In argumentative writing, you are typically asked to take a position on an issue or topic and explain and support your position with research from reliable and credible sources.

The argument you are making should be clear within your thesis statement.

You should have several reasons or points of discussion that help you to support your argument. You will explain and support these reasons and points of discussion within the body paragraphs of your paper.

As with all academic writing, you'll need to cite any information that you used from a source within your paper.

Format your paper according to your assignment instructions:
APA, MLA, Chicago Style

The following sample includes APA Style citations and references.

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The Positive Effects of Technology Use by Children

Social media, apps, gaming, television, YouTube: modern American youth are flooded with opportunities to access information and entertainment, often at the touch of a fingertip. Although many of these technological outlets have a negative connotation of "wasted brain space," not all technology and screen time should be considered of little worth, or purely for mindless entertainment. In fact, because of technology's widespread appeal and accessibility, it can be easily used to incorporate academic or educational purpose into a daily routine. Technology's ability to captivate and engage a targeted audience can be harnessed and directed from mindless entertainment into powerful tools which are not limited to amusement alone. Games, television, and apps can be used to appeal to a child's intellect while developing technical skills; this creates a wealth of opportunities to enhance the behavioral and scholastic development of an adolescent. The use of technology and screen time can be positive for children as it allows children to excel academically by experiencing the expanding definitions of classrooms and literacy as a whole, improves low-performing developmental skills, and can supplement in-class education for more academically-advanced students.

Television, textbooks, and computer games are just a few technological mediums in which information is presented and widely accepted as a form of communication. This must be taken into account when determining what literacy means and how children receive information as well as how they master the skill of developing their competencies. Where reading and writing skills in the medium

Here, in the introduction, the student begins with a hook, then introduces her overall topic of technology, and next, narrows it to the benefits of technology use by adolescents.

The thesis statement begins with the specific topic. Next, the student states her argument (her position) on this topic. The thesis ends with the reasons she feels this way. These 3 reasons will be the 3 major points of discussion within the paper.

We can see that this paragraph focuses on the first point of discussion from the thesis statement. The student indicates this with the use of topic sentences within her body paragraph development.

of spoken word or paper and ink once strictly defined literacy, the definition is widely changing to include proficiency in modern technology such as computers and other digital source[...] [...]anging standard in academia, children mus[...] [...]in ways that challenge previous methods. Fo[...] [...] applications, and according to Kervin (2016), "Digital play with carefully sele[...] [...]pps can provide active, hands-on, engaging and empowering learning opport[...] [...]facilitate versatility in children's literacy experiences by pro[...] for reading and writing, and to listen and communicate through a[...] scenarios and activities" (p.70). By this explanation, an app on a tablet can provide children an alternate medium for education while introducing them to technology literacy. Although not all available apps are created to enrich a child's educational experiences, the guided use of carefully chosen [...] can be a powerful learning tool when used in academic cont[...]

Apps and digital play are not limited to academic and enter[...] purposes; some are created with the goal of improving developmental outcomes of adolescents. In doing so, this technology can be used to guide a specific population of children with learning disabilities, such as those who present on the Autism Spectrum, to help them learn life skills which can improve their independence, comprehension, and social skills. In a 2015 case study by Allen et al., the parents of a child diagnosed with Intellectual Developmental Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder created video self-modeling (VSM) apps. These video apps modeled how one could appropriately interact with othe[...] [...]ific social

> Here, the student has supported her point by including **evidence** from a source.
>
> She has also correctly **cited** this information.

> The student did not simply insert a quote and move on. She **integrated her research** by including a **lead in** to the quote as well as an **evaluation or explanation** of the quote.

> We can see here that the focus of this next paragraph aligns with the second point of discussion from the thesis statement.

> The student supports her points by including **evidence** from sources and she **integrates** this research into her writing rather than simply inserting the evidence into the body of the paragraph with no introduction or follow-up analysis.

situations, such as interacting with a cashier or acquaintance. Their daughter accessed these apps on a tablet in order to view appropriate behavior modeling. By viewing others demonstrating appropriate behavior on demand and in a medium which she was comfortable with, the adolescent was able to significantly improve her independence and learned behaviors. Where she once was able to only model appropriate social behavior in approximately one quarter of her attempts, after using the VSM app, she was able to triple her success rate, and occasionally exceed that marked improvement (Allen et al., 2015). The act of independently accessing these computer apps and getting educational medium directly correlated with the girl's de social outcome.

In addition to low performing and functioning children, the specific population of children who perform higher academically, or are identified as gifted, can also benefit from technologically based or enhanced learning environments. Online educational programs and tools are becoming readily acceptable and embraced as supplement or alternative to a brick-and-mortar classroom. In a study by Periathiruvadi and Rinn (2012), the authors explained that gifted students who participated in online learning and the educational software that accompanies it stated they prefer this type of education because their traditional schools did not offer activities that were challenging enough. These students also appreciated the ability to supplement their regular coursework with additional learning tools and even gain advanced placement credits because of it (Periathiruvadi & Rinn, 2012). The acceleration of courses through additional

online educational tools is a benefit for some students, as they can attend college earlier than traditionally enrolled students, or at the same time as completing their high school education. The recognition of the importance of online or blended traditional and online classes is not limited to individual schools or students. In some cases, legislators at the state level have acknowledged the benefits of online or blended classes and have even implemented laws to support the inclusion of this type of education. For example, the Florida Digital Learning Now Act of 2011 requires the state's school districts "establish virtual learning options, and authorize customized and accelerated courses to be delivered in traditional school settings by personnel providing direct instruction through a blended environment" (Swan et al., 2015, p. 27). The fact that governmental mandates require technological involvement in schooling shows that the climate of education is changing to encourage a marriage of technology and academia. The appeal of online learning is not limited to gifted adolescent learners; the increase in online college courses is an indication of the changing future of formal educational institutions. Allowing younger students to explore this option prior to entering college could provide a foundation for a post-diploma education.

Some scholars and researchers claim that there are negative impacts of technology on a child's developing mind. According to one research study, scholars claimed that "moderate evidence also suggests that early exposure to purely entertainment content, and media violence in particular, is negatively associated with cognitive skills and academic achievement" (Kirkorian et al., 2008, p. 8). Although there is validity to the presented argument, this theory

> Here, the student has included a paragraph that identifies a **counter-argument**.

excludes educationally driven programming, some of which is specifically designed to educate children beyond what they might experience by age-appropriate schooling alone. There is incredible value in formal education and the public school system; however, classroom modalities are not the only way children learn about the world around them. Educational stimuli can come in the form of direct contact with a teacher, reading a book, or by watching a program. For example, a student learning about the number three can find value in hearing a teacher explain mathematical values of the number, by reading a book which illustrates a visual example of the number, and by watching a program with a catchy song about the number three. In his eBook *Children's Learning From Educational Television: Sesame Street and Beyond*, Fisch (2004) described how some television programs are types of informal education, "much like educational activities that children find in magazines, museums, or after-school programs" (p. 9). While a good deal of education takes place in the classroom, television can be used to supplement the academic experience of a student. When presented in an informal and entertaining way, this supplemental material can help students become more engaged in topics, and more willing to delve into deeper consideration of concepts. Early learners may also be introduced to subject matter that is not typically introduced until later phases of formal schooling, if at all (Fisch, 2004). Children and adolescents may also find value in television news programming which provides information on current events, such as Nickelodeon network's program titled *Nick News*. This show detailed topical information, such as politics and environmental issues, in an entertaining televised format which

was geared to children and adolescents (Fisch, 2004). With all this considered, television and other forms of technology should not be dismissed as petty entertainment; the potential to present educational information in this medium is possibly immeasurable.

When the tool of technology is used to supplement formal education, it can be invaluable in aiding the positive development of a student's growing mind. Television programming can introduce new ideas or reinforce those which have already been presented, making concepts more familiar and contextual. Social skills can be learned by being presented to low-performing children via tablet apps or videos, which allows for developmental growth in a convenient and easily accessible way. The definition of a classroom itself has changed, and online learning is a space in which high-performing students can flourish. As society embraces the inclusion of technology in everyday life, the field of education should not be an exception; to exclude technology from educational and social development could arguably be detrimental to a child's outcome as an adult. The use of technology and screen time has been proven to create a well-rounded and positive educational experience for children and adolescents. Technology supplements in-class education, improves low-performing developmental skills, and allows children to excel academically by embracing the expanding the definition of a classroom environment and education.

Here in the conclusion, the writer summarizes the main points made in the paper and explains the importance of the topic.

Here, she shows the importance of this conversation.

References

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