

## “Gaming Communities” Argumentative Writing Analysis

Essay: Gaming Helps Develop Communication Skills

Author: Joshua Vink

*Directions:* Read the essay and answer the following questions. For multiple choice questions, please circle the letter of the best answer. For any short answer question, answer the question, but your answers do not need to be in complete sentences. When a question requires more than one answer (broken into a and b parts, for example) be sure to answer all parts, writing your answer for each part next to the area marked a or b, etc.

1. Which sentence from paragraph one most clearly states the main point/argument of the essay?
  - a. Today, communication is more complicated than ever.
  - b. Electronic devices have become increasingly important tools of communication in the last thirty years.
  - c. People rely on their smartphones more than any other device.
  - d. Communication is vital to doing well in today’s society.
  - e. A great way to improve your communication skills is through gaming.
  
2. Which sentence from paragraph two best states the first major claim to support the main point/argument of the essay?
  - a. Chat features allow gamers to meet people from all over the world.
  - b. They can make friends while having fun.
  - c. They can also play with family or longtime friends.
  - d. The reading and writing that comes from chatting with these people can foster positive communication.
  
3. Look at paragraph 3. Which of the following best describes the role of that paragraph?
  - a. It is introducing a new claim to help support the main argument.
  - b. It is using an example as support of the claim in the previous paragraph.
  - c. It is using facts to prove that the claim is valid.
  
4. Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 each makes a sort of smaller claim that is ultimately helping to support the major claim in paragraph 2. For each paragraph, paraphrase these claims.
  - a. Paragraph 4-
  - b. Paragraph 5-
  - c. Paragraph 6-
  
5. In what paragraph is a brand new claim (a totally different argument from paragraph 2) made? What is the claim?
  - a. Paragraph #-
  - b. Claim-

6. Name three paragraphs in the essay (write their numbers) that do not make any type of new claim whatsoever but are ***totally*** used to support claims from other paragraphs?
  
7. Name the four paragraphs (write their numbers) that use *facts from research* to help support a claim (either within that paragraph or a claim from another one)? (Note: it is possible that one or more of your answers from number 6 may apply here, too.)
  
8. Where, if at all, does the author address a counterclaim/opposing argument and try to rebut it? Write the paragraph number and the counterclaim, if he did so. If he did not do so, write "NONE."
  
9. Name two claims (whether major claims or supporting claims) that the author uses that you find especially convincing. For each one, explain why you believe that claim to be especially strong/convincing.
  - a. Claim-
  - b. Reason-
  
  - c. Claim-
  - d. Reason-
  
10. Name one claim (whether a major claim or a supporting claim) that the author uses that you find to be the least effective in supporting their overall point/argument. Explain why you believe that claim to be less effective or possibly even weak/ineffective.
  - a. Claim-
  - b. Reason-
  
11. What is one thing that you believe the author could have done to improve this essay/make it more convincing? Why would that help it?

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Counterpoint Essay: Gaming Does Not Promote Positive Communication  
Author: Caroline Rodgers

*Directions: Read the counterpoint essay and answer the following questions. It is necessary to read the whole essay to be able to answer the following questions with any effectiveness. Again, your answers do not need to be in complete sentences, but answer all parts of each question, writing your answer for each part next to the area marked a or b, etc.*

12. Name two claims (whether main claims or supporting claims) that the author uses that you find especially convincing. For each one, explain why you believe that claim to be especially strong/convincing.
- a. Claim-
  - b. Reason-
  
  - c. Claim-
  - d. Reason-
13. Name one claim (whether a main claim or a supporting claim) that the author uses that you find to be the least effective in supporting their overall point/argument. Explain why you believe that claim to be less effective or possibly even weak/ineffective.
- a. Claim-
  - b. Reason-
14. Where, if at all, does the author address a counterclaim/opposing argument and try to rebut it? Write the paragraph number and the counterclaim, if she did so. If she did not do so, write "NONE."
15. What is one thing that you believe the author could have done to improve this essay/make it more convincing? Why would that help it?

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Overall: Evaluating Both Essays

*Directions:* This last question can only be answered after you have analyzed the claims and support in **both** of the essays, as this asks you to weigh their arguments against each other. Again, your answers do not need to be in complete sentences, but answer all parts of each question, writing your answer for each part next to the area marked a or b, etc.

16. Finally, evaluate which of the two essays you find to be more convincing. Importantly, it may not necessarily be the opinion you personally hold about the issue, but it's the essay that you find more convincing/that makes the stronger arguments/claims. Write the name of the essay that you find more convincing and then **be specific** in explaining why it more convincing.
  - a. Essay-
  - b. Reason-