

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Expository Writing (Unit 5, pages 256–257)

Assignment: Write an expository essay that explains what technological invention has had the strongest influence on your life or on society as a whole.

The Cell Phone Century

Despite statistics that show it is dangerous to drive while talking on a phone, people continue to gab while driving down the freeway. Why? Mobile phones are one of those rare inventions that alter our lives so immediately and so completely that, despite the drawbacks, suddenly we cannot imagine life without them. We are only starting to experience the profound changes mobile phones will have on our relationship to our work, to each other, and to our natural environment.

Cell phones are one type of mobile phone. As a result of cell phone technology, commuting is no longer considered “dead time”; instead, travel time is an extension of the workday. Despite the fact that some people are worried that the proliferation of cell phones in the “workplace” lessens their time for reflection and relaxation, owning and carrying a cell phone is quickly becoming a job requirement. Some companies even give employees cell phones. Because of this, the notion of leaving work behind at the office is becoming obsolete.

Mobile phones are also transforming the way people socialize. No longer does the girl “wait by the phone” for the guy to call. As a result of the mobility of cell phones, for example, she can slip her phone in her purse and go out with her girlfriends. In addition, as a result of the effect of cell phones, people now just hook up instead of calling in advance and making dates to meet. Unquestionably, mobile phones are transforming our ways of socializing.

Some newer types of phones are even changing our relationship to our environment. These mobile phones use satellites, rather than radio waves, to allow us to communicate not just within a pre-marked “cell” but from anywhere on the earth to anywhere else on the earth. Historically speaking, people have trekked to the North Pole, to the Himalayas, and through the Sahara Desert for the experience of being far from human contact. Satellite technology is beginning to make this kind of isolation an anachronism.

Cell phones are clearly here to stay. They will continue to proliferate because they meet the needs of a fast-paced and mobile twenty-first-century society. Because of this, we can expect the workday to expand, social life to become more fluid, and the universe to seem ever smaller. Despite the many benefits of the new technology, it remains to be seen what price we may have to pay for always being “in touch” with each other.

Summary: *This essay effectively shows the relationship between an invention and society.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 98 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 33 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Uses a relevant fact to establish topic and draw the reader in

Introduction suggests the approach the essay will take.

Uses transitional words to establish cause-and-effect relationship

Body of essay supports thesis

Good use of logical reasoning to clarify cause-and-effect relationship

Concludes effectively by summarizing the main points of the essay and hinting at future consequences