

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

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.

A Chorus of Cell Phones Change the Tune

People are in love with cell phones. They're addicted to them. Cell phones are one of those rare inventions that change the way we live our lives.

In our fast-paced society, cell phones allow us to do more things simultaneously. For example, if you're ever on a commuter train in the morning you hear cell phones ring and people answering in their business voices, talking to assistants, and scheduling meetings with clients. Commuting time is no longer "dead time," but rather an extension of the workday. Despite the fact that some people complain that cell phones are causing them to have less time with their families, for reflection, and for relaxation, owning a carrying a cell phone is now basically a job requirement. Indeed, the expectation in the business world is that, as an employee, you must have a cell phone. I've even heard of companies that give cell phones to new employees to keep.

How many songs have been sung about the girl waiting by the phone for a guy to call? You won't hear songs about this predicament anymore. Now that girl can slip her little cell phone in her purse and go out on the town with her girlfriends. If he calls, he calls; if not, she'll still have a good time. Another way cell phones have impacted the way teenagers socialize can be seen in the language. For example, the new term for getting together socially is "hook up." Before everyone carried a cell phone, "hook up" was only used when talking about getting your telephone service installed. Due to the popularity of cell phones, our patterns of socializing are obviously in the process of changing.

Our society has always been fascinated with frontier lands, with "getting away," beyond the reach of human contact. For example, people trek to the North Pole, to the Himalayas, through the Sahara Desert, all for the experience of being beyond the reach of human civilization. There are other types of mobile phones that aren't cell phones. These work by satellite technology and allow communication anywhere on the planet. This is a new concept for us and it challenges our romantic ideas about "getting away."

Human ingenuity is a great thing, but it is unclear what it will lead to.

Summary: While the essay is often informative and engaging, the introduction does not include a clear thesis, and the supporting paragraphs often lose focus. Including more effective transitions and a more thoughtful conclusion could make the cause-and-effect relationships and their significance to society more clear.

This piece might receive a 3 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive an 86 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—28 points for Focus/Organization, 31 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 27 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Thesis lacks specificity.

Effective topic sentence and good supporting details

Abrupt introduction of a new idea

Oversimplifies people's motivations and doesn't fully explain ideas

Vague conclusion