



Advanced | Exemplar Essay

Call or Text

You Don't Have to Choose!



Clarity and Focus

A significant and effective central idea ("There are advantages and disadvantages that accompany both methods...") thoroughly addresses the demands of the prompt. The introduction engages the audience with meaningful context and the essay fulfills the writing purpose with a strong focus on developing each point of the thesis.



Development

The central idea is developed with significant, well-chosen, relevant facts ("With non-verbal cues like pacing, tone of voice, and inflection...") and insightful explanations ("It's one more way that contributes to people feeling as if they lack real, authentic connections in their lives"). A fair balance is given to the advantages and disadvantages of both texting and talking in a manner that addresses the audience's understanding of the topic.



Organization

Grouping related ideas into distinct paragraphs (advantages vs disadvantages, talking vs. texting) enhances the audience's understanding of the topic. Varied transitions ("as a result," "To that end," "Additionally") show relationships between complex ideas and link major sections of the text. The introduction is engaging, with relevant information leading logically to the thesis, and the conclusion supports ideas presented.



Language and Style

A formal style and objective tone are maintained throughout ("sending a text message rarely consumes one's time"). The essay uses precise language ("inflection," "compelling," "aforementioned," "unhindered") that addresses the complexity of the topic and attends to the conventions of the discipline.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Call or Text



Notes

You Don't Have to Choose!

Human beings share a fundamental drive to connect and communicate with one another. With so many ways to share information in this fast-paced, modern society, it would be impossible to declare which one of the methods is better or more effective. Cell phone use has dominated our culture, and as a result, texting and talking have remained the two of the main forms of communication. There are advantages and disadvantages that accompany both methods: people who prioritize comfort and convenience are most likely drawn to texting, while people who seek meaningful and impassioned conversation love the "lost art" of voice calling. Although both methods are practical, most people have a preference when it comes to talking or texting.

Voice calling enables users to confirm that the intended messages have been received clearly, instantly, and safely. The most important distinction of voice calling is that the two callers can hear each other's voices. With non-verbal cues like pacing, tone of voice, and inflection, each person can more accurately interpret the messages from one another, rather than having to guess what the other person meant from a cluster of words on a screen. To that end, a phone call can result in a quicker conversation because the callers are sharing information, problem-solving, and clarifying ideas as soon as the other person picks up the phone. Being able to exchange information immediately through a phone call is a swift way to trade messages at a faster rate. In certain situations, talking on the phone can even enable the users to multitask. Since all modern phones, landlines included, come equipped with a speakerphone feature, voice calling allows users to have their hands free to engage in a multitude of chores. To further illustrate this point, consider the benefits



of speakerphone while driving. Texting is a dangerous (and sometimes deadly) choice to make while operating a vehicle. Calling makes communication more convenient for those who need to get a clear message across instantly, safely, and unhindered.

While there are numerous advantages to calling, there are also disadvantages that can drive a wedge between the two people trying to communicate. The phrase "phone tag" is widely used and refers to the constant trading of voice messages, because the two people trying to communicate are not available to talk at the same time. While calling is a quicker form of communication in some instances, it can also be very slow and frustrating if the phone is never picked up. Even when the two people successfully reach each other on the line, the connection can be weak, difficult to hear, or abruptly cut off, all of which are highly inconvenient. In addition, the caller has little to no privacy because anyone nearby can overhear a voice conversation while on a bus, a train, at work, or at school. In many significant ways, this mode of communication requires you to be in the right place and the right time in order to speak.

With the aforementioned examples in mind, those who value privacy, maximizing their time, and multi-tasking multiple conversations might find texting a more suitable form of communication. Communicating in public with a voice call can give others the chance to hear the conversation, which is a problem for some. Texting in public does not present this problem, given that texts can be exchanged silently with the repeated press of multiple keys. Additionally, sending a text message rarely consumes one's time, as it is a quick and effortless form of communication. Texting allows people to reply when it is convenient to them, permitting people to return to the text at a later time if they are too busy to reply immediately. It is also advantageous in the sense that one can handle conversations with multiple people, in some cases simultaneously, without having to neglect or postpone another conversation. Finally, unlike a phone conversation, texting allows people to store and review past texts for later review if necessary. This is extremely helpful if someone needs to remember the time or place

of a meeting. One can easily look back at a previous text message, without having to connect on a phone call to confirm this information.

As convenient as texting can be, it has its fair share of disadvantages as well. Texting has made it more difficult for some people to maintain interesting, face-to-face conversations with one another. The generations that started texting as children are now accustomed to talking in short snippets of sentences. This makes having a sustained conversation a challenge, especially for those that have social anxiety. Another disadvantage to texting is the misunderstandings that frequently occur. The person receiving the text can interpret it in a way other than how the author intended, and therefore can become offended over nothing. For instance, it is very hard to infer one's tone from a text message. Misunderstandings can occur if the receiver of a message misinterprets sarcasm for honest feelings. While the use of emojis can help convey the intended emotion, plain text doesn't offer the cues that vocal inflections provide when talking to someone over the phone. The most concerning disadvantage to texting is that someone who is depressed can use it to purposefully avoid face-to-face contact or letting a friend hear the pain in their voice. It's one more way that contributes to people feeling as if they lack real, authentic connections in their lives.

Both calling and texting are adequate forms of communication, each with its own set of compelling advantages and disadvantages. Some may love the convenience and ease that comes with texting and others may be more attracted to the idea of deep, personal human connection that accompanies talking. However, one doesn't always have to choose one method or the other; they can appreciate the beauty of communication in both of these wonderful forms.