

Topic:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Notes:

Agree and disagree: Conditions – What do you watch and what do you watch collectively?

TV watching is a mostly passive activity that may encourage discussion and conversation. Commercials might allow this conversation to occur.

Counterpoint: TV watching allows most people to isolate their thoughts and feelings into the TV programming experience and discourage conversation because it interrupts the TV watching experience.

Another point is the idea that people enjoy each other’s company even if it is only in the setting of mutually sharing the same TV watching experience.

Thesis: TV can easily isolate people into a passive viewing experience but collectively sharing a positive and entertaining TV experience is likely to improve the overall experience of family members and friends because TV supplies people with stimulating topics to discuss and debate.

The introductory sentence describes the topic area as being TV and its effect on society

Essay:

While TV has been blamed for many of society’s failings, especially as a time consumer for the masses, it might also be the source of many of our ideas and information. Arguably, the ideas and information may be suspect in terms of quality and value but TV has probably become a major focal point in most homes throughout the west. If this is the case then it can be argued that Television viewing of positive programming is likely to improve family communication by supplying stimulating and thought provoking ideas and information.

Thesis statement provides a conditional view point giving a primary reason for this view point]

Much has been said about the value of television, but most people in my experience have learned much and shared much of their new found knowledge with each other. These experiences have led to many coffee room conversations and across-the-dinner-table debates. Sports, news and entertainment have always stirred our collective interests, and aren’t these topics the ones we all love to debate and discuss? Lets face it, TV has become part of our social milieu and the family has for the most part endorsed it in a multitude of different ways too numerous for any one of us to name.

First supporting fact is from my own observations

What about the notion that TV watching is a very passive activity? Studies have been published claiming that the average viewer is more relaxed physically than during sleep! But is that the point? Watching TV sports can be very active. Watching a very stirring drama can bring tears to our eyes. We must all concede that good or bad Television programming supplies us all with plenty to talk about and plenty to stimulate our imagination.

The counter-point argument is placed here to establish balance. But it is played down in this paragraph

I have watched TV since I was a child and have seen the many changes in programming over the years, and I must confess, that despite the flaws in TV programming, and despite the annoying commercials, I have found the television to be enormously entertaining, intellectually stimulating and most certainly a source of

interesting conversation. **Many conversations have been stimulated or sourced from what our family had viewed.** Sometimes the conversation is simply the latest sporting event. On other occasions stirring debate on world events and the state of the environment have grown from watching many excellent news documentaries.

The third supporting point is more personal and connects me and my family to the topic thesis.

Are there any counterpoints to consider? I have observed many people being consumed by their televisions and they use it to lose themselves in a passive and thoughtless dreamland. Maybe they are escaping from our fast-paced and highly stressful society that most of us find ourselves caught up in. But is TV to blame? I think not. If anything, **television has allowed many of us to stay connected to society and, by extension, to our own families by being informed in ways that were not so convenient in the pre-radio and television eras.** **We should always think carefully about the technologies that change society and the debate about TV and its impact on us should never stop.**

The final closing sentence opens the door to further debate and advises to keep monitoring the subject area to keep the debate always current and relevant. This shows more balance which readers appreciate

The conclusion statement is very differently worded than the thesis statement. It boldly states the thesis and adds greater context to the topic



Time: 30 minutes

Proofread twice making corrections each time.

Note: If more proofreading was made it is likely that more changes would have been made. As always, time puts limits on such efforts.