

WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES

SECTION 1: A RHETORICAL MODES READER

Chapter Two: The Expository Mode

Comparison and Contrast: Reading 1

Susan Dominus, “Motherhood, Screened Off”

Susan Dominus is a staff writer for the New York Times Magazine and has contributed articles on technology and entertainment to the New York Times as a Metro columnist.

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/24/magazine/motherhood-screened-off.html?_r=0

Questions for Reading and Discussion

- 1) What are the drawbacks of being able to do everything—schedule events, read, send texts, make phone calls, and play games—all on a single device? Why does the author state that she is “nostalgic for the pre-iPhone life”?
- 2) Dominus explains that her children feel “shut out” when they see her using her iPhone. What is her solution to this problem? Do you think it is a good or adequate solution?
- 3) Evaluate the essay’s final paragraph. Does it provide a satisfying closing? What conclusions can you draw about the relationship between contemporary parenting and technology from this ending?

Questions for Writing and Research

- 1) Write a response paper in which you discuss Dominus’ observations about our everyday use of smartphones and other digital technologies. Do you, like her, have nostalgia for a time before smartphones? Have you noticed differences between your generation’s relationship to technology and older generations’ relationships to technology?
- 2) Write a paper in which you compare your own childhood to the childhoods of young children today. What do you think is the defining difference between your generation and theirs?



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