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Unit 1 Writing Assignment

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<div style="text-align:center">The Gamers Dilemma</div>

Do you have a child that enjoys video games? Just like me, most of teens and kids like me enjoy too have some spare time with their friends. Some are introverts and some are extroverts but nonetheless all of use enjoy the concept of gaming and spending time with their buddies. I for one happen to be in part of a gaming discourse community which mostly a lot of adults especially parents hate the sound of. I am part of a community that respects and enjoys the qualities of communicating with others without necessarily having to be outside constantly where I do not enjoy my time. Many parents believe that video games lead to ruined lives of teens and children and is a major distraction from the real world which later causes problems. Many can argue against or for this, but one thing is for sure is many factors really weigh in weather or not a gamer is really ruining his future with video games. It is hard for a community like ours to not be judge for what we enjoy which unfortunately happens so often by parents who do not understand what we seek to achieve in our community. We, just like other people, enjoy communicating in different ways. Others use football to communicate and make friends, others may enjoy going to the gym together. In our community we aim towards virtual scenarios which can be humorous and adventurous at times. In our community we are classified by the word gamers which best fits our community's lifestyle.

Video games become a problem when addiction arises due to excessive playing. Many of you parents are led to believe that is the case with this community. In reality, this is what we enjoy doing in our spare times and means of entertainment. With moderation, video games can be a great stress reliever from a tiring day at school or just meeting up with friends online and having a good time. Most of you parents might have a son or daughter who enjoy the same activities as our community does. Believe it or not, a lot of gamers have shown increase in IQ quantities compared to those who do not play video games. According to an article titled "Being Good at Video Games is a Measure of Intelligence, Study Finds", IQ based games are found in many online games most teens and children play that many parents are not aware of. As stated in the study "Research in the past has pointed to the fact that people who are good at strategy games such as chess tend to score highly at IQ tests." (Griffin) According to this quote, your child may potentially be a genius sitting in their room without you even knowing. Video games can for some be an escape from reality of being a teen. Most young adults do dumb decisions that might result in a bad habit for the future. If your child playing video games is bad, at least they are not trying drugs or being peer pressured into drinking which is obviously far worse than your child on the computer. Think of it from your child's point of view and how you think he/she feels whenever they are being told they are lazy and will not have any future if they are on their computer every day.

Then compare to the high school freshman that get a taste of what bad choices and peer pressure gets them to do and see which choices you want your child to adhere to. Me being a part of this community, I can attest to the same treatment most of the members of the gaming community undergo. Many members of the gaming community are put under extreme criticism by non-other than the parents themselves. A lot of family arguments arise solely from their child being a part of these communities and the inexperience of the parents in relations to video games and what their child enjoys.

This results in the child likely having their mentality ruined due to the parent's constant arguing between one another. The article "The Long-Lasting Effects of Yelling at Your Kids" explains the results of aggressive behavior many children are surrounded by from their parents nonstop yelling and perhaps verbal abuse that most children are accustomed to. In one part of the article it states that "yelling that comes with verbal putdowns and insults can be qualified as emotional abuse. It's been shown to have long-term effects, like anxiety, low self-esteem, and increased aggression." (Ginta) As shown, studies explain the long term effects the child could be undergoing from the meaningless abuse. Possible solutions for the parent and child to have common ground would be to possibly bond with one another and for the parent to understand the different environment the child is in and welcome it. I suggest for you parents to take a different approach towards understanding your child and take into consideration that with moderation, video games can be beneficial both mentally and socially. This maybe a new

concept to grasp onto with the ongoing technology that your child is exposed to. But this not

necessarily mean it will result negatively.

Many parents want their child to succeed, but do not understand that the way the child is treated

results in their success. If your child is struggling school, it is probably not cause of the video

games and the community and group of friends they are with. Try help your child with their

homework and or hire a tutor. If the cause is truly the video games, accepting your child's

environment and possibly bonding with them can be a major factor. If the flunking continues, at

least it is caused by video games rather than drugs. But nonetheless there is always is a solution

for the problems. Since this is not a first-time problem to occur, experiments have been

conducted to show the best possible solution to situations such as these. In an article titled "Do

Video Games Cause Aggressive Behavior?", describes such scenarios which are solved with the

help of Dr. Nicholas J. Westers, Psy.D., ABPP. One of the quotes explains in Westers study:

    Parental involvement is key across the board when it comes to relationships with

children," says Dr. Westers. "That's just as true with video games as it is for anything else. When

parents are present and involved, it is easier to talk with children about what they see, and model

good behavior. Plus, having a shared interest, like video games, is a great way to bond with your

kids. (Westers)

Dr. Westers explains that to truly help your child is to cope with them and connect to provide a

healthy environment to grow up in. If you see your child playing video games, make sure they

take care of their priorities first and are on the right path. If all is on track let them play however

much they would like. If they are getting things done than that child deserves a reward and same goes for anyone who takes part in the gaming community.

Another possible study shows some of the benefits your child may be able to obtain from video games. The article "The Surprising Benefits of Video Games for Kids" explains:

What might just look like a fun waste of time to parents can actually be teaching kids valuable life skills including problem solving, how to make and take ownership of choices and how to control their own behaviors and goals." Some games, generally those that are multi-player, even have the potential to teach kids empathy, due to the shared experienced of completing the game together, explains Ponti. (Ponti)

As shown from this quote, benefits like problem solving and or ownership greatly has an impact on your child's development and their long-lasting future. If you really wish to see the positives of your child, give them a chance and do not take their social life for granted just for being in a virtual way.

Therefore, the solutions may be all hidden within the child's actions. The gaming community has a lot to offer to many young adults such as us. It goes without saying that if your child shows excellent results in their education and or just general behavior, a little entertainment through the virtual world cannot be all that threatening. Especially when your child is socializing and enjoying their time amongst their friends.

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