



Advanced | Exemplar Essay

Call or Text

You Don't Have to Choose!



Clarity and Focus

A clear and effective central idea is presented ("Texting and talking are two of the main forms of communication seen today and there are advantages and disadvantages that accompany both methods"). The essay thoroughly addresses the demands of the prompt and fulfills the writing purpose. The central idea is significant, meaningful, and the introduction engages the audience.



Development

The central idea is developed with significant, well-chosen, relevant facts, and explanations ("The most important difference is that while talking on the phone, the two conversing can hear each other"). 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 topics into separate paragraphs helps to make important connections and distinctions between ideas, linking major sections of the text and creating a sense of cohesion throughout. Varied transitions show relationships between and among complex ideas ("Although," "While there are numerous advantages to calling, there are also disadvantages," "This in turn makes people feel"). The introduction is engaging and the conclusion supports ideas presented.



Language and Style

A formal style and objective tone are maintained throughout. The writing uses precise language ("Innately," "compelling," "cluster," "aforementioned," "advantageous," "authentic") including figurative language ("there are also disadvantages that can drive a wedge between the two people trying to communicate"). The essay 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



You Don't Have to Choose!

Human beings innately share a fundamental drive to connect and communicate with one another. With so many ways to communicate in this fast-paced, modern society, it would be impossible to declare which one of the methods is better or more effective. Texting and talking are two of the main forms of communication seen today and there are advantages and disadvantages that accompany both methods. People with a proclivity for comfort and convenience are most likely more drawn to texting, while people who seek meaningful and impassioned conversation love the "lost art" of talking. Although both methods are practical, most people have a preference when it comes to talking or texting.

Using a phone to call others has its conveniences and inconveniences. Calling can give one the advantage of getting their message across clearly, quickly, and safely. The most important difference is that while talking on the phone, the two conversing can hear each other. With tone of voice and emotion, each person interprets the correct message from the other, rather than having to guess what the other person meant from a cluster of words on a screen. Also, a phone call can result in a quicker conversation because you are sharing and problem-solving as soon as the other person picks up the phone. Being able to exchange information almost immediately through a phone call is a swift way to trade messages at a faster rate. Talking on the phone can also give one the ability to multitask. Those who make smart decisions know not to text while driving, for fear of injuring themselves, or others. If one would decide to text while driving, it would shift their focus to piecing words together on their mobile device rather

than focusing on driving safely. Calling makes communication more convenient for those who need to get their message across quickly, clearly, and vigilantly.

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 phone call messages because the two people trying to communicate can never seem to be in a position to pick up the phone 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 if you successfully reach the person you have been trying to call, calls can be difficult to hear or easily be cut off, which is highly inconvenient. Also, you have no privacy because others can hear your 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, taking their time, and multiple relationships might find texting a more suitable form of communication. Communicating in public while using a cell phones 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. 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 and permits 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 multiple conversations with multiple people through texting at once without having to neglect or postpone another conversation. Texting also allows you to store one's texts and one can look back to them for small details that they may have otherwise missed if it were a face-to-face or phone conversation.

However, as easy and helpful as texting is, it has many disadvantages as well, just

like calling. Texting has made it more difficult now for people to maintain interesting, face-to-face conversation with one another. Everyone is so used to talking in short snippets of sentences, that our spoken language has become a mess. Texting can also be extremely impersonal as people can put a facade on while texting, making most text conversations meaningless and hollow. This in turn makes people feel as if they lack real, authentic connection in their lives. Another disadvantage to texting is the misunderstandings that occur. The person receiving the text can interpret it in any way other than the author intended and can become offended over nothing.

Both calling and texting are adequate forms of communications, each with its 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 and can appreciate the beauty of communication in both of these wonderful forms.