

2003 North Carolina Writing Grade 10

On August 20, 1999, CNN published an article titled, “*Television’s Effects on Kids: It Can be Harmful*”, by Dr. Daphne Miller.

The article stated that the “average child in the United States spends about 25 hours a week in front of the television (including the use of VCR), according to the latest annual *Media in the Home* survey, conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center – a number significantly exceeding the maximum limit suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).”

“Over the past several decades a number of studies have shown that there are several ways that television can be harmful to the mental and physical health of children. That’s not to say that all television is bad for kids. In fact, a number of quality children’s shows...engage kids in positive ways. However, when children watch television frequently and indiscriminately, the effects can be detrimental.” For example:

- ◆ “The *Media in the Home* survey found that 28 percent of all children’s shows contained four or more incidents of violence per show – a number that media experts consider high.”
- ◆ “There appears to be a strong relationship between time spent in front of the television and being overweight.”
- ◆ “TV watching (especially late-night and violent shows) has been connected with poor sleep patterns in children.”

Using the information presented, your own experience, observations, and/or readings, write a speech to present to your community’s elementary and middle school Parent/Guardian Associations in which you examine the harmful effects of children watching too much television.

As you write your speech, remember to:

- Focus on the harmful effects of children watching too much television.
- Consider the purpose, audience, and context of your speech.
- Organize your ideas and details effectively.
- Include specific details that clearly develop your speech.
- Edit your speech for standard grammar and language usage.

Use the blank sheet of paper given to you by your teacher to plan your speech. Anything you write on the blank sheet will not be scored. Write the final copy of your speech in the test booklet.