

Please Note: Each of the following comments is preceded by a “+” or a “-” to indicate a positive or negative aspect of the essay.

### Sample B

Technology has come a long way when it comes to educational programs for children. The concept of having computers in the classroom is, and will continue to be, an issue for some education ~~practicioners~~practitioners, as well as some parents. Many people believe that instead of dedicating time to the use of computers in the classroom, teachers should be focusing more on helping students to further develop their reading and writing skills.

Although I am not a huge technology lover, I do believe that having computers in the classroom does have great advantages.

I believe the problem with computers in the classroom is how they are being used and whether or not the usage is to children's advantage. In my opinion, computers can serve as great aids in teaching children different skills, and assisting them in practicing skills they have already ~~acquired~~acquired. For example, there are many web sites that have fun educational games for children ~~and~~ that focus on many different subjects. David Gelertner argues, "It makes ~~the~~ printed page look even more boring than it used to look. Sure, books will be available in the classroom, too- but they'll have all the appeal of a dusty piano to a teen who has a Walkman handy." I beg to differ. The reason I disagree with this statement is because I do not think that computers should be an excuse for teachers to stop teaching. Computers should be used periodically to positively reinforce lessons student-s need to learn. When computer usage is being moderated and incorporated into lessons, and not made lessons, teachers will have time to focus on reading to their students and make an emphasis on the importance of books and other literature.

I think that computers are important because they offer a different teaching method. Children, and even adults, tend to learn faster when they are enjoying their

**Commented [A1]:** + Clearly worded, strong thesis statement in a solid introduction

**Commented [A2]:** -It's unclear what "it" in the quotation refers back to. The student should do more to explain the larger context of the quote and introduce it more carefully to the reader here.

**Commented [A3]:** -Before disagreeing with the quotation, the student should take a moment to spell out what he/she sees Gelertner saying in this quotation.

**Commented [A4]:** + nice word choice

**Commented [A5]:** -The student appears to have left out a word or two here as this sentence doesn't fully make sense.

**Commented [A6]:** + Clearly articulated and somewhat developed ideas about how computers can be used in the classroom.

**Commented [A7]:** -As above with "I think," the student doesn't have fully developed transitions here between paragraphs

**Commented [A8]:** + Nice new idea

lessons and are entertained by the content. If a child is more interested in a specific learning style, chances are they will either learn better, or faster when taught using that style. It is important to recognize that not all children are the same. Because of this, teachers need to focus on offering several approaches to teaching the same lesson and assessing it. While some students may learn better with print outs, or peer to peer learning, others may be visual learners and will learn best with programs that teach the lesson while visually stimulating the child.

**Commented [A9]:** + Excellent specific and careful development and writing.

Another great reason to have computers in the classroom is they teach children how to become ~~technologeocially~~technologically advanced. Teaching children how to use computers and how to access different educational programs will benefit children of all backgrounds and family situations. By teaching a child how to use these educational resources in the classroom, they will know how to access them outside of the school and possibly even in their own home. For example, if a student has parents who are immigrants and do not speak eEnglish, they may not be able to help their children with their homework. These children will be able to receive the ~~assitance~~assistance they need through these programs if their parents are not capable of helping them due to language barriers.

**Commented [A10]:** + Excellent transition

Children in ESL classes will particularly benefit from computers in the classroom. With all of the amazing programs made available today, these students will be able to play games on the computer that show them how to pronounce words, while teaching them how to read and write them. The great thing about these programs is that students will be able to practice their eEnglish, while having fun and not having the fear of making a mistake and ~~embarrasing~~embarrassing themselves in front of their peers.

**Commented [A11]:** + Strong writing and good development here

**Commented [A12]:** - Better transition needed here

**Commented [A13]:** + Again, specific, careful sentences and great development

The use of computers in the classroom is also great because it may promote the use of free educational websites in the home. By teaching children how fun and full of resources these websites and programs are, it may encourage children to play on these websites at home as opposed to spending their time watching television shows with no educational value, or looking for things to do outside of the home. With the increasing amount of violence in the world today, it is wonderful to think that programs such as these may entice children to stay in their homes and learn, as opposed to being out in the streets being exposed to danger and getting into trouble.

**Commented [A14]:** + Good transition

**Commented [A15]:** -What is "it" here?

**Commented [A16]:** +Nice word choice

**Commented [A17]:** +Another good idea about the positive uses of computers in a well-developed paragraph

**Commented [A18]:** - A stronger transitional phrase would help here.

I believe that having computers in the classroom and incorporating them into your lessons is a wonderful idea. By incorporating computers into instruction, teachers will be able to reach out and meet the needs of children from various educational levels, and different learning styles. The use of these computers will particularly assist ESL children to practice hearing words and sentences, while developing their reading and writing skills. The use of computers will also help children of immigrants to have computer knowledge so they may access extra help outside of the classroom. Promoting the use of computers within the classroom may encourage the use of computers for educational purposes as opposed to recreational ones within the home. This will help children to stay out of harm's way, and at home learning in a fun and creative way.

**Commented [A19]:** -The way of harm = harm's way

All of these benefits of the use of classroom computers will help children, parents and teachers. When all work together, there are greater possibilities for furthering the education of children.

**Commented [A20]:** This all could probably be part of the last paragraph – all of these sentences are part of the conclusion. And these last two sentences are particularly strong in a solid conclusion that may rehash the specific points of the essay more than is necessary but clearly articulate a thesis.

## FOR EXPLANATORY PURPOSES ONLY

Category	3 Excellent Performance	2 Adequate Performance	1 Weak Performance	Score	DETAILED EXPLANATION * For explanatory purposes only
<b>Grammar and Punctuation</b>  <i>sentence construction</i>  <i>verb endings</i>  <i>pronoun use</i>  <i>run-ons/fragments</i>	The composition is nearly free of grammar and punctuation errors.	Errors in grammar and punctuation do not fall into patterns and are not excessive.	The composition exhibits patterns of errors in the areas of grammar and/or punctuation.	2	<i>There are some comma errors, but commas are also used correctly throughout the essay; there are no patterns of error and errors are not excessive</i>
<b>Spelling and Vocabulary Use</b>  <i>correct spelling</i> <i>homonym usage</i>  <i>word choice</i>	The composition is nearly free of spelling and word choice errors.	Errors in spelling and word choice are not repetitive or excessive. Errors do not inhibit meaning.	The composition exhibits patterns of errors in the areas of spelling and word choice. The errors are excessive and/or inhibit meaning.	2	<i>There are a few spelling errors (e.g. "aquired," "technologocially") and a vague word choice ("this"), but errors are not excessive</i>
Student <u>must receive a score of 2 (Adequate) or better in both categories.</u> A weak score in either of the above categories is a failing paper.				<b>P / F</b>	<i>Notice that because the student earned a 2 in each of the top two categories of the rubric, he/she passed the top portion of the exam</i>
<b>Introduction and Conclusion</b>	Composition includes strong introduction and conclusion	Composition shows an adequate attempt to create an introduction and conclusion although one or both may be weak.	Composition does not include either an introduction or conclusion.	2	<i>Introduction and conclusion are both solid. However, the conclusion is <u>weakened</u> by being split into two paragraphs and by reiterating all the points of the essay, which is unnecessary. Were these issues addressed, the student could easily have earned a 3 in this category.</i>
<b>Responsiveness to Question and Comprehension Accuracy</b>  <i>use of quotations references to</i>	The composition responds to the question and works specifically to accurately integrate an analysis of the author's ideas with	The composition responds to the question but does not specifically or accurately integrate an analysis of the	The composition does not respond to the question and does not integrate an analysis of the author's ideas with personal ideas.	2	<i>The essay does well in developing a <u>critical perspective</u> to the topic, but that perspective is only partially integrated with the author's ideas as they could be. The</i>

<i>text</i> <i>critical</i> <i>perspectives</i>	personal ideas.	author's ideas with personal ideas.			<i>student <u>uses only one quotation</u> from Gelernter and that quote isn't carefully introduced and fully discussed.</i>
<b>Overall Focus and Development</b>  <i>cohesive</i>  <i>adequate development</i>  <i>use of examples</i>	The composition is cohesively focused and developed logically.	The composition generally maintains focus, but may occasionally lose focus and/or lack logical and full development.	The composition frequently loses focus, lacks logical organization, and/or lacks overall development.	3	<i>The essay is full of focused and well-developed examples about how computers can be used to help all different kinds of students both in and outside the classroom</i>
<b>Quality of Writing</b>  <i>adequate paragraphing</i> <i>use of transitions</i>	The composition is exceptionally well-written, using careful and logical transitions between and within paragraphs to aid the reader in understanding the composition.	Most ideas are clearly stated and contribute to the clarity of the composition, but the links between and within paragraphs may be stilted or incomplete.	The composition is not well-written, and the essay jumps without explanation from one idea to the next, often losing focus and providing little guidance for the reader.	2	<i>The essay is well written and transitions are used well if not always in the essay. Were transitions used more consistently, the student could easily earn a 3 in this category</i>
<b>Notes (use back of sheet, if necessary):</b>			<b>Mechanics Score</b> Score of 2 or more in each category needed to pass.	<b>P / F</b> <b>4</b>	
			<b>Content Score</b>	<b>9</b>	
			<b>Total Score</b> (Possible Score: 18)	<b>13</b>	<i>This is a passing essay!</i>

- Student must receive a score of 12 (with 2 points minimum awarded in each area of the mechanics portion) or better to receive a passing score on the composition. No partial points are to be awarded.