

Sample Paragraph

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class Period: _____

Step 1: Reading Sample Paragraph

Directions: *With your group, read through the sample paragraph from the writing assessment you took last week. As you read, use a pen and highlighter to identify patterns in the structure of the paragraph.*

In the article “Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age”, Sherry Turkle warns readers about the dangers of over dependence on modern technology to escape boredom, preventing people from knowing how to navigate important spaces in our personal and work lives. She highlights how one of the greater impacts of technology is how it prevents us from providing our full attention to those around us. Thus, that overstimulation takes away the natural human pace in social relations because “Every time you check your phone in company, what you gain is a hit of stimulation, a neurochemical shot, and what you lose is what a friend, teacher, parent, lover, or co-worker just said, meant, felt.” Excessive amounts of technological stimulation detracts from social relationships, as one will never truly be living in the moment when uncontrolled use of devices is a factor in their life. This also has deeper impacts on society as a whole as it increases a sense of isolation as meaningful connections become more limited. Even our political leaders are dealing with the costs of overstimulation, as Senator John McCain decided to play poker online in the middle of a hearing on the crisis in Syria, instead of doing his job and working to solve the problem. He justifies his actions by tweeting “Scandal! Caught playing iPhone game at 3+ hour Senate hearing--worst of all I lost!” Although a three hour hearing can be mentally taxing, his disregard for the severity of his actions demonstrates a lack of understanding of the responsibility he must bear as a politician. When the welfare of a country and its people is at stake, one must provide their undivided attention to help find solutions that could potentially save lives. Turkle’s article thus describes how overstimulation is robbing our society of the power of social relationships and focus and can ultimately hinder our society from truly prospering.

Step 2: Identifying the Paragraph Structure

Directions: *With your group, discuss the different components of the paragraph.*

1. What are the different parts of the paragraph? What purpose do they each serve?

Part	Purpose

2. How are these different parts arranged to create a strong, successful paragraph?