**The Writing Prompt:**

Write an informational essay that explains the concerns experts have about the use of technology among young people. Your essay must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the attached passage set.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

* read the passages;
* plan your response;
* write your response; and
* revise and edit your response.

Be sure to

* include a claim;
* use evidence from multiple sources; and
* avoid overly relying on one source.

**Passage Set: Screen Time**

Source 1

**As they text more and more, are kids losing the ability to read each other?**

1. A week without seeing a screen could change how you look at the world. A new study suggests that the ability to read nonverbal social cues can improve after just five days away from computers and iPhones.
2. Researchers followed a group of about 50 sixth-graders to a nature camp in Southern California. None of the campers could use computers or cellphones.
3. Nonverbal social cues are the emotional information we pick up from people that is not spoken out loud. Cues can come in how people look at you or how they sound.
4. Researchers are wondering whether children are losing the ability to read these important cues. Children spend more time using electronics and less time interacting face-to-face these days.

**Looking At People Making Faces**

1. Yalda Uhls works for a group focused on understanding Internet use. She also led the study and wrote up the results. Uhls said the idea for the study came from watching her daughter. She said she sees her daughter and her friends using phones to interact while they are all in the same room.
2. Uhls and professor Patricia Greenfield found a sixth-grade class that goes to a wilderness camp for five days. The researchers wanted to see children without their electronics.
3. About 50 children attended the camp. When they arrived, they took two tests to measure their ability to read nonverbal social cues. In the first, the kids were asked to judge the feelings in 48 photos of people making faces. In the second test, they watched a video with no sound and then judged the actor's feelings.
4. The kids took the tests again five days later. According to researchers, the kids made an average of 14.02 mistakes on the face-recognition test at the beginning of their camp stay. They thought the actors were feeling one way when they actually felt a different way. Then, by the end of the camp the kids took the test again. That time, they only made 9.41 mistakes.
5. On the video test, they correctly named about a fourth of the feelings at the beginning of camp. After five days at camp, the students got 31 percent correct.
6. Uhls said the researchers were surprised to see those results after just five days. She was encouraged by what they showed though. The results suggest that putting devices away for five days is enough time to improve at reading social cues.
7. Uhls and Greenfield said the results of their study suggest that it is important for kids to spend time away from screens like computers, cellphones and TVs. It does not necessarily suggest that all screen time is bad. They hope people understand it's important that kids have time for talking face-to-face.
8. “It is really important to have a balance,” Uhls said.

Source 2

# **Kids are spending way too much time online, doctors group warns**

1. CHICAGO — Doctors have new advice for parents: Limit kids' tweeting and texting. They should also keep smartphones and laptops out of bedrooms.
2. The suggestions are bound to prompt eye-rolling and laughter from many teens. But an important pediatricians group says parents need to know that unrestricted media use can have serious effects.
3. It's been linked with violence, cyberbullying, school woes, weight problems, lack of sleep and a host of other problems. It's not a major cause of these troubles. But "many parents are clueless" about the strong effects media use can have on their children, said Dr. Victor Strasburger. He is the lead author of the new American Academy of Pediatrics policy.
4. "This is the 21st century and they need to get with it," he said. Strasburger is a University of New Mexico doctor of teenage medicine.

**Few Parents Setting Rules**

1. The policy is aimed at all kids, including those who use smartphones, computers and other Internet-connected devices. It expands the academy's old suggestions. The group already said to ban televisions from children's and teens' bedrooms and to limit entertainment screen time to no more than two hours a day.
2. Under the new policy, those two hours include using the Internet for entertainment. That  would be Facebook, Twitter, TV and movies. Online homework is an exception.
3. The group uses a 2010 report. It found U.S. children aged 8 to 18 spend an average of more than seven hours a day using some kind of entertainment media. Many kids now watch TV online and send text messages from their bedrooms after "lights out." Yet few parents set rules about media use, the policy says.
4. The policy notes that three-quarters of kids aged 12 to 17 own cellphones. Nearly all teens send text messages, and many younger kids have phones that let them get on the Internet.
5. "Young people now spend more time with media than they do in school," the policy said. The only thing children and teenagers spend more time doing is sleeping, it added.

**Time Limit Called Catastrophic**

1. Mark Risinger, 16, of Glenview, Ill., is allowed to use his smartphone and laptop in his room. He says he spends about four hours a day on the Internet doing homework, using Facebook and YouTube and watching movies.
2. He said a two-hour Internet time limit "would be catastrophic." Kids won't follow the advice, "they'll just find a way to get around it."
3. Strasburger said he realizes many kids will laugh at advice from pediatricians — or any adults.
4. "After all, they're the experts! We're media-Neanderthals to them," he said. But he said he hopes it will lead to more limits from parents and schools, and more government research on the effects of media.
5. The policy was published online Monday in the journal Pediatrics. It comes two weeks after police arrested two Florida girls accused of bullying a classmate who later killed herself. Police say one of the girls recently boasted online about the bullying. The local sheriff questioned why the girls' parents hadn't restricted their Internet use.