

Name _____ Date _____

Opinion:

Are Video Games Good or Bad?

GAME
OVER

A good **opinion essay** includes an opinion, or thesis, statement and strong, supportive reasons. Be sure to include all of these things as you respond to the prompt below.

CONTINUE?*

YES NO

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below. Then, respond to the prompt on page 2.

Video Games: The Good and the Bad

Are you a gamer? A gamer is someone who plays video games. There are many types of video games out there. There are many opinions about them, too.

Advantages

Video games build certain skills in children. Kids learn creativity as they work through games. Each video game is set up differently, but most video games have some sort of problem to solve. Kids who play video games get practice solving problems. These types of skills are important in life.

People usually think about soccer or basketball as being a team activity. However, video games build some of the same skills. Gamers learn team skills by working together during a video game. They protect, help, and guide teammates. Also, when people play video games, they need to have a strategy, or a plan, in order to win. These skills are not only learned in sports. They are learned in video games, too.

Disadvantages

On the other hand, many people have a different opinion about video games. They believe that gaming is a bad thing. Some video gamers become addicted, and that is a major problem. People who are addicted choose to only play games with their time. They do not take care of chores, school work, or any other important things in life.

Video games can be bad for a child's health. Video game players skip meals or lose sleep because they stay up too late playing games. Sitting in front of a game for more than two hours a day is also bad for a child's health. Kids need to be active through exercise. Without exercise, kids can become overweight and have other health problems. In addition, video games can cause backaches, headaches, and strained eyes.

Lastly, some video games are violent. The people who play them can be aggressive and bullies to each other. Instead of being good teammates, video game players can be mean to each other. This type of environment does not create positive relationships with people.



