

Mission GRE

Issue Section

Please see the comments after every paragraph. Typos/grammatical errors are highlighted in red.

In the age of television, reading books is not as important as it once was. People can learn as much by watching television as they can by reading books.

If the standard for superiority is **a knowledge** (“knowledge”) of history, mythology, or some other topic that can be adequately depicted through television as well as a book, then I do **no** (**not**) see why people cannot learn as much by watching television as reading books. If a person has an aptitude for auditory learning, then hearing a television program may be more beneficial and long lasting than reading the same text. Television can incorporate song, and combine visual, audio, and physical elements to the experience. These all have benefits that reading cannot address in the same fashion.

Comment 1: Good start. However, there are two problems in the above paragraph:

1. Always make your side clear. At this point, you seem to deny that TV is better than books. But, you never explicitly mention what you think is better. Always start something like this:
“I agree with the issue insofar that watching television has become a more valuable means in learning skills than reading books. However, I agree/disagree that”
2. You are trying to make a point that TV is more dynamic than reading books. However, the point that TV is more beneficial for someone with great aptitude for auditory learning is out of place. For example-even if you are not a good listener, you may watch a dance video and self learn how to dance. Please keep in mind to highlight the audio-visual advantages of TV.

(“However” would be more apt.) **Yet,** if the standard is the retention of knowledge, or overall intellectual growth and/or capacity, then an assessment becomes more difficult. It has been well documented that the process of reading stimulates areas of your brain controlling language and creativity. Reading expands vocabulary and a **persons** (**person’s**) exposure to the written language’s usage and **grammer** (**grammar**). It fosters creativity by forcing one to generate their

own characters and backdrops. Television does not do this, or at least not in the same way.

Comment 2: You have described the advantages of reading over TV in a very good way.

Educationally, it is clear that students that read have higher IQ levels, perform better on standardized tests, and excel academically more readily than those students that do not read, or read less. This may be a product of the superiority of reading or an example of the catching up that television needs to do to truly compete with reading.

Comment 3: Since it is unclear whether TV can result in higher IQ or not, this comparison may not be appropriate.

I would be interested to see a study comparing the benefits of watching a television program based on a specific book, with the actual reading of that book. It could encompass physical scans of the brain during the different activities and test retention, vocabulary, spelling, and any other aspect of benefit feasible. The results may help to distinguish how each compares to the other.

Comment 4: Please note that you are judged on your logic of supporting or refusing an issue topic. Coming up with an experiment to compare the two sides of an issue may jeopardize your grades. In an issue section, the first step is to make your stand clear. Second step is to justify why you think one thing is better than other. Third step is to point out your assumptions and possible scenarios where you may be wrong. Finally, write a conclusion. Here is a sketch of thoughts before writing:

1. I think “reading books is better than watching TV”
2. I think reading books is better than watching TV because:
 - a. It is more active way of study.
 - b. It can result in higher IQ.
 - c. Better vocabulary blah blah blah
3. However, I do think that in some cases watching TV may be better than reading books like:
 - a. Watching how to paint for an art student may be better than reading book
 - b. Watching space exploration
 - c. Watching dance and drama..blah blah blah
4. I conclude that reading books is better than watching TV. Nonetheless, watching TV programs can be useful blah blah blah..

Presently, I do not believe that television applies itself in a way that, by and large, competes with the benefit of reading. Programs such as Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers both have formats that aim to educate and foster learning. Basic prime time television merely entertains and conveys a story. If knowledge of that story is the benefit, then television may compete with reading. Yet, if the purpose is greater than the conveyance of the story, extending to overall intellectual growth and development, then reading wins hands down.

Comment 5: I like the way you have come up with some scenarios in which TV may be better than reading books or vice versa. However, the point to be highlighted here is “TV is passive way of learning and reading books is active way of learning.” Now, try to bring the contrast which one can be better under what circumstances. Please follow the structure laid out in comment 4.

OVERALL COMMENTS

Content:	Average
Organization:	Average
Language:	Good
Mechanics:	Good
Typos:	Very Less

Expected Score: 4.5/6

WRITING SECTION SCORE
ISSUE Section=4.5/6
ARGUMENT Section=5/6
AVERAGE=4.75/6
FINAL SCORE (after rounding)=5/6