

# Opinion Essay/Explanation

**Score 4**

Some people think that watching television is a waste of time. Other people think that watching television can be valuable. What are some of the benefits of watching television? Write a paper for your teacher. Support your ideas.

It's election time. Lots of people, politicians and parents in particular, are talking about television. Many say television is to blame for a lot of the problems in our world today, but I couldn't disagree more. In my opinion, everyone should have a television.

One reason it's important to have a television is that once you have one, it provides endless hours of inexpensive entertainment. Events that only a small number of people could afford to see in person can be seen by millions for free on television. For example, tickets to professional hockey games in my city used to cost \$25, but recently they skyrocketed to \$50, and that's just for average seats at regular-season games. Good seats at playoff games cost hundreds of dollars! Movies, after I throw in a bucket of popcorn and a super-sized soda, cost more than my entire weekly allowance. Live concerts are even worse. At this rate, I won't be able to see my favorite singer in concert until I am too old to hear her! Television, on the other hand, is like a free pass for those of us whose backpacks are not exactly bulging with dollars.

Next, TV is educational. Some shows for children teach counting skills, ABC's, and important life lessons about cooperating, sharing, and respecting differences. There are plenty of educational programs for adults, too, such as home improvement shows that demonstrate how to build a deck or how to fix a sticky door. Just last month, my mom baked me a birthday cake in the shape of a soccer ball after seeing it done on a cooking show. With television you just push the appropriate button on your remote control and presto! You're in the classroom.

My final reason for liking television is that it helps you to relax after an exhausting day at school or at work. TV can be a refreshing break.

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**Score 4** *(continued)*

It can help you forget about that quiz you bombed or the argument you had with your best friend. I know that watching that crazy roadrunner zip down the highway or zoom off a cliff always makes me smile.

Parents and politicians might have a point, but in my opinion, television can be an important and useful part of a person's life. For inexpensive entertainment, education, and relaxation, I'm keeping my television!