Debates

__In-class Activity__

Read the following articles from *The Norton Sampler* (8th edition) and take ideas from them to create a list of arguments on the potential benefits of computer use, and another list of arguments on possible dangers. Add some arguments of your own to each list. Then, create several versions of a debate proposition for each article.

- In "Mind over Mass Media" (p. 559-562), Harvard professor Steven Pinker argues that, if we exercise the proper discipline and self control, the use of computers, including modern social media, can actually improve our cognitive abilities.

- In "Our Semi-Literate Youth? Not so Fast" (pp. 570-576), Stanford professor Andrea Lunsford uses anecdotal evidence and data from research studies to argue that the younger generation, far from being debilitated by the Internet, is fully capable of distinguishing between academic and informal writing, and that today's students know when each of these registers is appropriate.