FLM: Debates

In-Class Activity: Option 2
Online Implementation

Note for instructors: This activity can be completed individually or in groups. In case of group work, put students in break-out rooms and ask them to copy the table into a shared Google doc, so that they can fill it out together.

Read the two articles below, from *The Norton Sampler* (8th edition), and complete the following steps for each article:

1. Fill in the table to create a list of arguments on the potential benefits of computer use, and another list of arguments on possible dangers. In creating the lists, use ideas from the article as well as add your own arguments.

2. Next, create at least two versions of a debate proposition for each article.

Article #1

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.

Benefits	Dangers

Debate proposition version 1:

Debate proposition version 2:

<u>Article #2</u>

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.

Benefits	Dangers

Debate proposition version 1:

Debate proposition version 2: