Instructions: Read the following article. Then go back and chunk it, keeping in mind that each chunk should focus on one main idea. When you are finished, write a summary and critique of the article. Click on the "Possible Responses" button if you would like to see how one student responded.
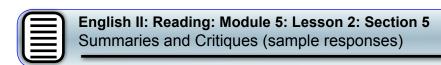
Teenagers and the Internet

Renae, the author of this article, is a 16-year-old from Lowell, MI. She is a creative individual who spends a lot of her time reading and learning Japanese because she would like to become a journalist in Japan.

(1) How many kids do you think spend their time on the Internet? I mean, there's so much to do, MySpace, chatting, games, blogging, updating profiles, etc. The Internet is basically the access to unlimited knowledge, a huge dictionary that's available with the click of a mouse. Yet some parents are having a fit over it. Why do you think this is?

(2) The Internet is not exactly safe. There are people out there looking to hurt kids, and parents just want their kids safe. Along with all the knowledge the Internet holds, there are a lot of places that teenagers just shouldn't go. There are a lot of websites that can't be trusted. I understand parents not wanting their kids to be on the Internet, but they need to see that it's more useful than harmful.

(3) So how can teens be on the Internet and be safe? It's actually quite simple: give them the information they need. Let them know the dangers of the Internet, and make sure they know what's safe and what isn't. If you know your kid has the knowledge of the Internet and all the things that come with it then you shouldn't be worried about the Internet being safe. Most parents find this hard to believe, but if they teach their teenagers the difference between right and wrong, they will usually make the right choices when parents aren't with them; this applies to their Internet use as well.

(4) Most teens have access to the Internet somewhere near where they live, making it impossible for parents to control how much time they spend on the Internet. I don't think parents understand that because this generation has grown up with the privilege of technology, it's not easy to separate from it. Left and right you can see teenagers with iPods, iTunes, and iPhones.

(5) The Internet is such an advantage to the new generation. It tricks teenagers into reading and writing with better fluency, and kids use the Internet mostly as a means of communication. Teens can interact with people from all over the world. It's kind of like having hundreds of pen pals but on the computer. What parents wouldn't want this for their kids? Parents should be opening the doors to the library of infinite information for their kids. The Internet is not the new generation's enemy; it is a medium for its potential.

http://www.radicalparenting.com/2009/04/21/teenagers-and-the-internet-teen-article/

Write your summary here. Only include essential information; leave out information that is nonessential.

Write your critique here. Be careful not to include unsubstantiated opinions.

Click for a sample response

Write your summary here. Be careful to only include essential information; leave out information that is non-essential.

In her article, "Teenagers and the Internet," Renae argues that the Internet is basically a portal to unlimited knowledge as well as a conduit to other sources of digital entertainment. Her question is, that if the Internet offers users access to limitless knowledge, why do so many parents have a problem with it? She answers this question by pointing out that the Internet is not safe. Parents know this and should take an active role in giving students the information they need to be safe on the Internet by teaching their children a sense of what are right and wrong Internet usage behaviors. Renae concludes her article by stating that there are advantages to Internet usage. Students have the potential to increase their reading and writing fluency, plus they can extend their social circles by communicating on the Internet.

Write your critique here. Be careful not to include unsubstantiated opinions.

Renae, the author of "Teenagers and the Internet," is wise in bringing our attention to the potential benefits and harm Internet usage can cause for young people. She frames her argument by asking why parents are having such a hard time seeing the beneficial side of teen Internet use. Parents are right to be concerned about the time their children spend online, but as she points out, it is impossible to keep kids offline because of the many paths to access. She is correct in pointing out that there are many advantages to Internet usage, as well as potentially harmful content and users. Learning the difference between the two should be the job of parents. I agree with the author that when laying out the ground rules for their children, parents should take the time to inform their children what is acceptable and unacceptable both in their personal behaviors and their time spent online.

I believe in the positive power of the Internet, but I am also well aware of its potential to lead kids into trouble. I am of the opinion that kids will find this trouble no matter what their parents do or say. That being said, there certainly is no harm in letting them know that there are rules that they should keep in mind as they journey through cyberspace.