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ENGL 149

Audio Script

\*\*baby shark doo doo doo doo doo doo\*\*

Although I am only twenty-one years old and may be perceived as a millennial with a technology-based upbringing, I feel that I grew up during a pivotal time of telecommunications. I have had a pretty holistic balance between both paper and digital learning. Because technology was not as enhanced and accessible as it is today when I was growing up, I have a different level of appreciation for personable skills that many children today do not. As the oldest of four children, I have noticed a huge contrast in my foundation of learning and how that has played out compared to my siblings. For example, I did not get my first cell-phone until I was 10 years old in the fourth grade. My youngest sister is in Kindergarten and was gifted an iPhone at 5 years old. I am in an ongoing debate with my parents who do are not what you would consider tech-savvy and are thus unaware of some of today's digital dangers.

In this response, I will discuss some of the downfalls of the learning styles that are promoted in today's society.

Reading print books as a child is often an act of bonding with a family member, teacher, or friend. Turning each page and pointing out words and pictures engages multiple senses and an overall enhanced learning experience. Learning how to read on computers, tablets, and other electronic devices makes it harder for parents and children to engage in the rich development that was happening in print books. One explanation as to why this is so is because of the patterns we are all accustomed to in using our devices. Perhaps the tablet is designed to be more of a personal device since families typically use them independently at home. A print book does a better job at eliciting dialogue and turn-taking.

Many studies have shown that babies and toddlers learn better through kinesthetic or hands-on learning. This why children love scratch and sniff and activity-based learning. No matter how hard they try, e-books and touch screens fail at trying to imitate the tactile experience of holding a book and cracking its binding for the first time.

 \*insert small clip\*

Ziming Lou, a professor at San Jose State University is the author of the book *Paper to Digital: Documents in the Information Age*. Through his research he found that our attention is more often captured by holding a physical book in our hands. He found that reading on screens results in more time browsing, scanning, and performing non-linear reading. Being able to engage in deep reading is a very useful skill that is most easily developed during adolescence. Scholars argue that the sound, text, and mind bites that are embedded in digital reading may hinder children from developing deep reading skills as well as deep thought.

 \*insert small clip\*

Studies have shown that reading print books together generates more verbalizations about the story from both parties. Researchers also say that there is something emotionally satisfying about knowing where you are in a book, how much you've read, and how far you have to go. This is not fully satisfied by the percentage markers typically shown in e-readers.

Overall, there is many benefits of reading print books that cannot be gained elsewhere.