**Read the passage about electronic communication. As you read the passage, think about the advantages and disadvantages of electronic communication. Then use the passage to help you write a well-organized multiparagraph composition.**

**Electronic Communication**

A recent study confirmed what most Americans had already suspected: teenagers send and receive numerous text messages every day. The average number was 60 messages sent daily. If you include all the replies, an average teen is sending and receiving over 3,000 text messages per month. How does all this texting affect personal relationships?

To answer this question, one must consider both the positive and negative aspects of electronic messages. Though 3,000 text messages sounds excessive, electronic messages actually have many benefits. Electronic messages, such as text messages, emails, or social network posts, are convenient. Messages can be sent and received instantly. Need to know which chapter you must read for the history test? Send a quick text message and find out in seconds!

Electronic messages also allow people to share and discuss ideas with different groups of people no matter how far they live from one another. Teens near and far can all access the same information and can be part of the same conversation. People who are separated by various circumstances in their lives are still able to communicate with each other. Electronic communication allows people to instantly send an email or text message rather than arranging a certain time to call someone who lives in another state or country. Traveling or moving away from friends does not have to mean losing contact with them.

One advantage of electronic messages is that because they are written, they can be edited before being sent or posted. Yet, many authors of electronic messages do not always do this. Thus, an advantage to electronic messages can become a disadvantage if sent too quickly and without review. Sometimes this results in a silly typo. At other times, however, messages become confusing, and create misunderstandings. Another disadvantage to the written message is that it is permanent and reproducible. One person’s confidential message may be forwarded to innumerable, unintended recipients.

With the increase in electronic messaging, verbal and interpersonal skills may be suffering. Many people are having fewer face-to-face conversations because they are using electronic communication instead. Being competent in skills such as listening, making eye-contact, speaking clearly , and interpreting visual clues of your audience is important. Without practice, these skills can be lost. Is electronic communication really worth it then?

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**Writing Topic**

**Write a multiparagraph composition for your teacher that states your opinion about whether electronic communication helps or hurts people’s ability to communicate. Clearly present your position and use details from the passage to help you support your opinion.**

**As you write, follow the suggestions below.**

Be sure your composition has a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

Use details from the passage and include enough information so your teacher will understand your response.

Be sure to write clearly and to check your composition for correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.