IELTS WRITING OPINION ESSAY

Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Read and mark the 3 following sample answers with 7- 7.5- 8

SAMPLE 1:

Many people believe that reading books is more beneficial for children compared to watching TV or playing computer games. Personally, I completely agree with this opinion and will analyze my point of view in the essay below.

To begin with, children can better improve their imagination through reading books in comparison with watching TV or playing games. By reading stories, children have to use their imagination to create a vision and visualize all events described by words in the book. While reading, they will create images, thoughts and opinions in their mind, thus enhancing their imagination and creativity. Meanwhile, this can hardly be the case for watching TV, as TV already provides them with the full image and vibrant colours. Consequently, it is reasonable to say that reading books help children produce more imaginative responses compared to watching TV.

In addition, reading stories from a book also develops children's verbal abilities compared to watching TV or playing computer games. Children will be exposed to a wide range of vocabularies as well as sentence structures when reading. Therefore, reading books can provide great opportunities for children to advance their vocabulary level, which can lead to their better writing skills. Meanwhile, when it comes to TV shows or computer games, sounds and images are two key elements rather than texts. That is to say, books are far better than TV or games at increasing children's vocabulary.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the advantages of reading books far outweigh those of watching TV or playing games for children since this activity does good to both their imagination and language ability.

instrumental (a) thiết yếu

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cultivate (v) phát triển

engross (v) in mê mẩn / đắm say bởi

immerse (v) into đắm chìm vào

affirm (v) xác nhận, khẳng định

SAMPLE 2:

Nowadays, due to the popularity of technology and its adverse impact on children, many people argue that reading storybooks is more beneficial to children than watching TV programs or playing video games. This essay supports this position for the following reasons.

Firstly, reading books can help children improve their **academic achievements**. Children reading books regularly are likely to have **competent** literacy skills, which is important for their study because schools often require students to **comprehend** a great deal of knowledge from reading various subjects' content. Hence, being competent in literacy skills can provide children with an added advantage when completing their assignments. Children with an advantage in literacy skills tend to have higher results in school exams, because they not only have wider knowledge but also better reading and writing skills.

More importantly, reading stories as a way of entertainment is **instrumental** in **cultivating** children's creativity. In this technological world, when children depend too much on TV and computers in various life **aspects**, **engrossing** in books is an undeniably wonderful stress reliever to keep children away from electronic devices. Besides, reading books encourages children to use their imagination to comprehend the plots and characters of these stories, which in turn sharpens their creativity. For illustrations, when **immersing** into Harry Potter for relaxation, children have to use their creativity to fantasize and understand

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the magical world with the existence of many fictional characters such as witches, dragons, or monsters.

In conclusion, I once again **affirm** that engaging in stories from books can bring more benefits for children than spending time on TV and video games, because children can gain both educational benefits and great joy when enjoying book stories.

SAMPLE 3

While it has been said that reading books for pleasure rather than watching TV is more **beneficial** for one's imagination and acquiring language skills, I contend that the role of **the former** in boosting intelligence and language ability is equal to **the latter.**
One the one hand, books are **instrumental** in enhancing children's imagination and development. A kid reading a **fairly tale** with illustration will have to think, **fantasize** and use their creativeness to comprehend ideas and reasoning, which **in turn sharpen their mental skills**. Moreover, reading books helps to improve language skills. Spending time reading a book which is not written in our **mother tongue** leads to the development of a **strong language base** referring to its vocabulary, or comprehending meaning of a word in different contexts. Besides, reading out a book for children is also an effective way to help them **improve their communication skill**, which is greatly stimulated as the kids grab a spoken word and use it in daily conversations.
On the other hand, watching TV is considered an important activity as reading in order to **cultivate one's imaginativeness** regarding its characteristics of programs. Firstly, when audiences watch a tourism channel for example, they **are exposed to** a wide range of knowledge by seizing images of **worldwide landscapes** or feel **tastes of specialties** in various **geographical region**s. The broadcasting of quiz shows serves as an efficient learning tool for both children and adults who prefer taking challenges which involve **critical thinking**. Secondly, the role of TV in boosting **linguistic competence** is **pivotal**. Recent English programs not only support audience to remember words easily by associating them with vivid images shown on the screen but **catch their constant attention** with entertaining aspects.
In conclusion, while the benefits of reading are undeniable, they cannot outweigh the role of TV in enhancing a person's imaginativeness and language skills.

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Vocabulary

- **The former (phrase):** denoting the first or first mentioned of two people or things.
- **The latter (phrase):** denoting the second or second mentioned of two people or things.
- **Instrumental (adj):** very important in helping or causing something to happen or be done
- **Fairly tale (phrase):** a simple children's story about magical creatures
- **Fanticise (verb):** to imagine that something pleasant, exciting, or unusual is happening to you
- **Critical thinking (phrase):** the objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgement.
- **Linguistic competence (phrase):** the system of linguistic knowledge of a language
- **Pivotal (adj):** very important

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