Why is reading important?

Exercise: Below there is a list of some reasons why reading is fundamental. Complete the ideas. Use the words in the boxes.

amusement	adults	information	illiterate	mind
words	imagination	ideas	internet	job

a. Reading is fundamental to function in today's society. There are many _____who cannot read well enough to understand the instructions on a medicine bottle, to fill out applications, to understand road warning signs, or even follow a map.

b. Reading is a vital skill in finding a good _____. Many well-paying jobs require reading as a part of job performance. There are reports and memos which must be read and responded to. Poor reading skills increase the amount of time it takes to absorb and react in the workplace.

c. Reading is important because it develops the _____, which is a muscle. It needs exercise. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability.

d. Reading is how we discover new things. Books, magazines and even the _____ are great learning tools which require the ability to read and understand what is read. People who know how to read can educate themselves in any area of life they are interested in. We live in an age where_____ is abundant, but reading is the main way to take advantage of it.

e. Reading develops the _____. TV and computer games have their place, but they are more like amusement. Amusement comes from words "a" [non] and "muse" [think]. _____ is non-thinking activities. With reading, a person can go anywhere in the world ... or even out of it! They can be a king, or an adventurer, or a princess, or.... The possibilities are endless. Non readers never experience these joys to the same extent.

f. There is an old saying, "The pain is mightier than the sword". _____written down have changed the destiny of men and nations for the better or worse. The flow of ideas cannot be stopped. We need to read and research to build on the good ideas and expose the bad ideas before they bring destruction.

g. The fact of the power of written ideas communicated through reading is a foundational reason why some governments oppose free and honest communication. _____ people are easier to control and manipulate. They cannot do their own research and thinking. They must rely on what they are told and how their emotions are swayed.

h. Finally, why is reading important? Reading is important because _____—spoken and written— are the building blocks of life. You are, right now, the result of words that you have heard or read AND believed about yourself. What you become in the future will depend on the words you believe about yourself now. People, families, relationships, and even nations are built from words. Think about it.

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