GWT Practice Topic #6

Are Video Games Dangerous?

Video games are a controversial part of our society. Many people think that fantasy violence in video games can cause players to commit real violence in the real world. Concerns about violence and sexual content have led to a ratings system for the games, similar to movie ratings. However, even with an “Adults Only” rating, some stores have refused to sell some games. Another problem is that some people play video games for 24 hours or more without eating or sleeping, and there has been at least one case of a person dying after playing for 51 hours without a break. This has caused physicians to debate whether video game addiction is a real mental illness similar to other addictions such as drugs, smoking and alcoholism. Even for people who are not addicted, video games sometimes interfere with work, study, and relationships.

Others say that video games reduce stress and are just another form of entertainment, like movies or TV, except that they offer a more interactive way of telling a story. Video games can also contain historical, literary, or even scientific content, and can be used to teach reading, math, and other subjects.

In a well-organized essay, answer the following question:

Do video games have a positive or a negative effect on your life or the lives of people you know?

In answering this question, you may want to discuss particular games you have played or are familiar with, or particular things that people who play video games do. You may also want to discuss policies, rules, or laws that might be used to make the effect of video games on society more positive, such as the rating system. However you approach the question, you should draw from either your own experience or observation and also the experiences of others you know.