


Writing Writing for talking (2)

Analysing a talk

- 1 What stories are in the news at the moment?
 - Are they national or international?
 - Are they about the environment, politics, crime, etc.?
 - Discuss any that concern you with the class.
- 2  8.14 Read and listen to a girl talking about a topic that concerns her.
 - 1 What is her cause for concern?
 - 2 Why does she have a personal interest?
 - 3 How did Craig use to be?
 - 4 What does research tell us about the addiction?
 - 5 Do most children become addicts?
 - 6 What concerns Dr Griffiths?
 - 7 What other concerns does the girl have?
- 3 Read the talk again and answer the questions.
 - 1 Look at the words that introduce each paragraph. Why are they used?
 - 2 Find examples of the speaker talking from her own experience.
 - 3 Find examples where she quotes research.
 - 4 How does the girl conclude her talk?

Preparing your talk

- 4 Choose a cause for concern from the topics you discussed in exercise 1. Make notes. Say why it concerns you and do some research.
- 5 Write a talk to give to your class, of 200–300 words. Use your notes and these guidelines to help.
 - 1 Introduce your topic
My cause for concern is ...
I want to talk about X because ...
 - 2 Give the reason why
Let me explain why.
Two years ago, ...
I've always been interested in ...
 - 3 List your research
Research shows that ...
A recent study found that ...
I read in the newspaper/heard in the news that ...
 - 4 Introduce new points
I have two more concerns.
Firstly, ..., secondly, ...
Another thing is ...
 - 5 Conclude
Finally, I'd like to say ...
Thank you all very much for listening to me.
Are there any questions?



My cause for concern

The thing I'm concerned about at the moment is the influence that video games may have on children.

Let me explain why. I've been reading lots of newspaper articles on the subject, and I also have a personal interest. You see, I have a younger brother, Craig, he's 13 years old, and I'm afraid he's becoming a video game addict. Just a few years ago, Craig had many interests; he played football, he was learning judo, he went out on his bike with his friends. He was a happy, fun-loving boy. Now he spends hours every day in front of a screen, in a virtual world, playing virtual games, usually violent ones, and he becomes really angry if our parents tell him to stop.

Research shows that children between the ages of two and five regularly play video games, and that by the age of eight, they spend an average of 25 minutes on them. It's much easier to find ways to play video games than it used to be, because of tablets and smartphones. This is not a problem for most children. However, by their early teens, a small minority have become addicts, playing for at least 30 hours a week. Dr Mark Griffiths of Nottingham Trent University, an expert in video game addiction, finds this figure worrying. He says that children may become so addicted that they stop doing homework, start playing truant, and even steal money in order to buy the games. It's likely that this addiction will only get worse with the coming of virtual reality headsets, which make the experience of getting completely lost in a virtual world even more powerful.

I have two more concerns. Firstly, I worry that the violence in the games could cause children to become more violent. My brother isn't violent, but he is certainly bad-tempered if he is stopped from playing. Secondly, I worry that sitting without exercise for so long is bad for your health. Craig often plays five hours a day, and some days his thumbs are really painful and he can't sleep because he is over-excited. His schoolwork is going from bad to worse.

Finally, Dr Griffiths says that more research is needed, but I don't need to read more research to conclude that video games cause problems. He should come and meet my brother. That's all the evidence he needs.

- 6 Practise reading your talk aloud first to yourself, then to a partner. Give your talk to the class. Answer any questions.

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