

English 96

Discussion for Winn's "Television: The Plug-In Drug"

Questions to Help You Prepare to Read

The following questions do not necessarily have specific answers. Rather they are intended to get you thinking about the problems that Marie Winn tries to address in her essay.

1. How many TVs are in your home?
2. Do you have a TV in your own room?
3. Do you ever find yourself simply watching whatever is on TV even when none of the shows are very appealing?
4. When do you usually watch TV?
5. What role does the TV play in your family life?
6. Do you and your family watch the same shows?
7. Considering TV programs that you watch with someone else in your family, do you talk while watching the program? When? About what?
8. When do you talk to your parents and/or siblings about what you did during the day?
9. When does your family make plans?
10. What plans does your family make?
11. When does your family exchange views?
12. When your family does exchange views, what are the usual items of conversation?
13. When does your family share jokes?
14. When do members of your family tell about their successes and failures?
15. Do you know the dreams and hopes and fears of your family members? Do they know yours?
16. Are you connected to extended family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc)?
17. When you have your own family, do you plan to make sure your children are connected to extended family members? (If so, how will you do that?)
18. What does it mean to you to be a "real family"?

Vocabulary

You might have encountered some words in Winn's essay that you did not know. Did you know all of the words listed below? If not, take a few minutes to review them. To review and study these words:

- First, use the number in parentheses to find the paragraph in which the word is first used in the essay. Read the word in context of the entire sentence.
- Then, look up the word, noting its part of speech (whether it functions as a verb, noun, adjective, etc).
- Finally, see if you can use the word in a sentence of your own.

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| 1. Ingrained (1) | 23. Shunted (15) |
| 2. Myopia (1) | 24. Accumulate (15) |
| 3. Afflicted (1) | 25. Recur (15) |
| 4. Asset (2) | 26. Reminisces (19) |
| 5. Consumption (7) | 27. Pastimes (20) |
| 6. Refrain (7) | 28. Subtle (21) |
| 7. Ameliorate (8) | 29. Purport (22) |
| 8. Advent (8) | 30. Fosters (22) |
| 9. Subsidiary (8) | 31. Mobilizing (24) |
| 10. Apologist (8) | 32. Fester (25) |
| 11. Equivocal (9) | 33. Anesthetized (27) |
| 12. Dispersing (9) | 34. Absorption (28) |
| 13. Domination (9) | 35. Parallel (28) |
| 14. Regimented (12) | 36. Interactive (28) |
| 15. Amiss (12) | 37. Imposed (31) |
| 16. Conjuring (13) | 38. Contradict (33) |
| 17. Bygone (13) | 39. Harmonizes (33) |
| 18. Dismal (13) | 40. Passive (34) |
| 19. Expeditions (14) | 41. Muddles (36) |
| 20. Spontaneous (14) | 42. Plight (36) |
| 21. Quarreling (14) | 43. Abstraction (36) |
| 22. Mediating (15) | |