

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Analyzing Paragraphs**



# Is Technology Distracting Our Kids?

**DIRECTIONS:** Analyze the structure of each paragraph below, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining the article's key concept.

"I have been Jimmy's teacher for three years," says Marcia Miller of the Waltham School, a private Montessori school in Southern Maryland. "And in that time, I have seen his attention span and his school performance both steadily decline." Miller is not alone. In fact, one out of every four teachers surveyed in a recent study conducted by the non-profit group Unplug Our Kids reported having noticed a decline in students performance that can be correlated with an increased presence of technology in schools.

1.

"At the beginning of every school year, it takes about a week for me to get through to students that I don't want to see a cell phone out during class," says John Hansen, a 30-year veteran of the Maryland public school system. In that time he says that he believes the character of students has essentially changed. "They give up too easily," he says, simply. "If an answer to something isn't at their fingertips, they lose interest in even looking for the answer." Like many of his peers, Hanson blames our ubiquitous technology for the decline in students' attention spans.

2.

These alarming reports from our nation's teachers should be taken seriously. After all, teachers spend far more time, every day, observing kids than even parents do. Concerned parents should consider limiting technology time, and encouraging their kids to pursue non-technology-related interests. "I like to tell my students that if they really want to be radical in this day and age," Hanson quips, "That they should read a good book."

3.