

Michael Miramontes

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### District Writing Assessment

Pokemon Go, the app that took over the nation by storm, catching the attention of veterans waiting for the release or newcomers who want to see what all this buzz is about. Millions of people all around the world played pokemon, especially teenagers, but those who did not, worried about other people's safety, which brought up the question, "Should teenagers play Pokemon Go?" Pokemon Go is an app created by a Japanese company, Niantic. The app requires the user to constantly have their eyes on a smartphone device, as they search throughout the entire world searching for mythical creatures that can appear at any moment. With the user's head always being on his or her device, they are almost unaware of what could be going on around them, which can harm hem in multiple ways. Many authors take it upon themselves to discuss on whether Pokemon GO should be played by teenagers, considering the negative effects that may harm the app's users. For example, Document A, an article written by Sarah E. Needleman, Document B, an article written by Bernard Marr and Document E, a passage adapted from Psychology Today, all discuss the pros and cons of Pokemon Go and the effects that it may have on its users and teenagers. I firmly believe that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers for three crucial reasons, the dangerous areas where the app can take you, the gathering of important data, and psychological effects that it may have on a person.

To start off, the first reasons why I believe that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers is the dangerous areas where the app can take you. Pokemon Go has specific locations where you can get treats, called Pokestops. The app also has multiple Gyms placed across the globe for users to fight

their Pokemon. Some argue that going to these locations, or just pokemon searching in general may be very dangerous. For instance, the author of Document A, illustrates this point when she states in the article, "The placements of Pokestops and gyms raise question about whether players could get searching unsafe areas-- a dark alley or along a river, for example,-- particularly staring at a smartphone screen." This quote proves that the locations of these features may bring someone far from where where they should be which can be very dangerous as the person may not know who or what can happen during their trip. For example, one may find themselves in a dark alley way face to face with dangerous people. Some people can even hurt themselves if they are not paying attention to the geographical location they are searching through. While playing Pokemon Go, I have personally gone with a relative to a place of the city I was unaware of, which could've been very dangerous if I had gone any further, which is why I believe that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers. Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers as they can get hurt while going to a location that the app can take them.

To further discuss, the second reason why I believe that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenager, is the app's gathering of personal and important data collected by the app. In order to play Pokemon Go, it is required that you have Gps on, which of then your app will record every location you are tracking you. Many people believe that this may be dangerous as the app can take personal data. For Example, the author of Document B, states, "Pokemon Go uses your phone's location, your IP address, and the webpage you must recently visited before playing, all connected with your real name, and account information, according to the game's private policy." This quote demonstrates how the app may constantly know everything you're doing and where you've been, considering you have your device. As this information may help the company that is eager to gain money for new and innovative apps, the user is unknowingly handing their information towards the company through the terms of

service agreements. This can get users information away to hackers who may be able to hack their way to catch personal and important information. Another example can be found in Document B, when the author states, "It uses a Google Map as your real world GPS location to direct you to Pokemon You can catch, and that information can be misused." This proves that teenagers should not be playing Pokemon Go as they are at risk of their information being misused. For example, if a person or teenager is suspected of a crime, as they were present in their area, which the person was innocently playing Pokemon Go. The opponent may use the location of Pokemon Go. The opponent may use the location of Pokemon Go to see if they were at the scene of the crime. That is why it is important that teenagers do not play Pokemon Go, as they unknowingly or knowingly hand over personal and important data to the company and app.

Lastly, the final reason why I think that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers is the negative psychological effect that it can have on a teenager. For example, the author of Document E states, "Some psychological cons are that even when player are outside, they are distracted by being on their phones, and player less social or willing to talk with others, which can increase the difficulty of separating reality and fantasy." This demonstrates that the apps result in users being less social. When players become less social, they won't be able to meet new people who need their guidance, or give guidance. Not to mention that they can be stressed they are likely to rush things or not thinking properly or even have a negative views of the world, this is why it is important that teenagers do not play pokemon go, as it can give them negative psychological effects, which can mentally harm or even physically harm them or the people around them.

To wrap things up, I believe that Pokemon Go should not be played by teenagers for three important reasons, the dangerous areas where the app may take them, the gathering of important and

personal data, and the negative psychological effects. The negatives effect that may come upon these teenagers can impact their mental and psychological health, so that they can grow up, get an education and even make a more safe and healthy way of playing Pokemon Go so it is important that teenagers do not play it. This is why I believe that teenagers should not participate or play in Pokemon Go.