**McGonigal’s Counter-argument (Revisit Paragraphs 15-30) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HR: \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Who are the groups that McGonigal thinks most likely would disagree with her (paragraph 15)?
2. What emotions does McGonigal associate with those groups (paragraph 15)?
3. According to McGonigal, how do these opposing parties view gaming (paragraph 15)?
4. How does the acknowledgement of these opposing parties strengthen McGonigal’s argument?

1. How does McGonigal refute these opposing parties from paragraph 16 to 30?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Paragraph** | **Quote McGonigal’s evidence-based reasoning that refutes the opposition** |
| 23 | How does McGonigal use the Lydian anecdote as evidence to disprove that gaming is a waste of time?  |
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|  |  |

*6. Was her refutation effective? Why or why not*. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LETTER TO McGonigal WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

**Task:** Imagine that McGonigal is an editor for a local newspaper. She has published an opinion piece in this week’s newspaper that uses the claim above, and you have a strong reaction to it. Choose an opposing viewpoint—parent, teacher, or politician—and a “write a letter to the editor” (aka. McGonigal) where you counter/refute/disprove her claim.

**You should…**

* Present a brief argument (assert a claim, provide evidence, explain reasoning)
* Your word choice should reflect the emotional tone that McGonigal ascribes to your perspective (alarmed, bewildered, concerned). You cannot use these words. Synonyms are fair game.

**Format:**

Date

Dear Jane McGonigal,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Respectfully,

Barbie McTastic

**EXPLICIT DIRECTIONS FOR THE LETTER TO McGONIGAL**

**1. First, objectively EXPLAIN THE LARGER MORAL DEBATE being argued: the rightness and wrongness of gaming! This can be accomplished in 1 to 2 sentences.**

**2. Second, state McGonigal's point of view:**

* **“Gamers have had enough of reality.”**
* “Games have been a fundamental part of human civilization for thousands of years.”
* “[they] are fulfilling *genuine human needs.”*
* “They are teaching and inspiring and engaging us in ways that reality is not.”
* “We are starving, and our games are feeding us.”
* **“Gaming can make a better world”**
* “By spending all this time playing games, we're actually changing what we are capable of as human beings. We're evolving to be a more collaborative and hearty species.”
* “These are our virtuoso gamers, 500 million people who are extraordinarily good at something.
* “Gamers are a human resource that we can use to do real-world work…games are a powerful platform for change.”
* **[Draw brackets] around your paraphrasing or quoting of McGonigal's point of view. Speak directly to McGonigal.**
* **Ex. Ms. McGonigal, I agree with you when you said . . . , but I highly disagree with your statement that . . .**

**3. Next, assert your POSITION/CLAIM & underline it!**

* **Gaming is . . .**

**4. Then, build a compelling argument.**

* **Don't just rant about your feelings. Be compelling. Be persuasive.**
* **Strategically use ETHOS, PATHOS, AND LOGOS. HIGHLIGHT the use of these appeals in 3 different colors and create a color key. Yes, you must use all 3!**
* **With logos, you may pull facts, numbers, stats from credible websites, but you must CITE the** **source in (parenthesis) following the quote or paraphrased information.**

**5. Second to last, include a concluding statement(s) that ties up your argument.**

**6. Lastly, include a *zinger* that directly refutes McGonigal's zinger that "We are starving, and games are feeding us." Put a *ZIG-ZAG* line under the zinger.**

**DON’T FORGET:** You are directly addressing McGonigal as if you are in face to face showdown with her, but there is a larger reading audience who you are trying to win over too. Be aware of your **AUDIENCE**.

  **Speaker** **Subject**