

Textbooks on Disk

“Okay, class is over. You can leave now,” says the teacher. It’s the end of the school day, and students’ minds are jumbled with many thoughts. What’s the homework? What books and materials are needed to do the assignments? How much do I have to carry home with me? At your locker, you pick up pencils, notebooks, and three heavy, thick textbooks. Arms ache walking down the hallway. **This problem could be solved by making all take-home textbooks available on CD-ROM.**

Intro paragraph:
begins with a hook,
gives background
information, ends with
the **thesis/position –
author’s opinion!**

First, textbooks on disk would make parents and school committees happy because they would help keep costs down. CD-ROMs are inexpensive compared to traditional textbooks, which can run as high as fifty dollars a copy. Lost or damaged CD-ROMs are cheaper to replace than those clunky books. With a CD-ROM, you could print out selected text and highlight it in any way you wanted. No books would be ruined by highlighting or annotations and have to be replaced. Also, when the text needs to be updated, changes could be downloaded from the Internet, which is much less expensive than buying hundreds of new books. CD-ROMs are the cost effective solution to providing textbooks to students.

Body paragraph 1:
begins with *a topic sentence that states a reason to support the thesis.*
Evidence, data, etc,
is provided to
prove T.S.

Perhaps most important, replacing textbooks with CD-ROMS would improve the health of students. Studies have shown that shoulder pain and scoliosis (curvature of the spine) are closely related to the weight and pressure caused by overloaded backpacks. Heavy loads on the back can cause soft tissue damage and even result in diminished nerve function. Doctors warn that weighty backpacks may injure muscles and joints and can lead to severe back, neck, and shoulder pain, as well as posture problems, These serious health problems could be avoided by replacing textbooks with CD-ROMs. You could even downsize your backpack,

Body paragraph 2:
begins with *a topic sentence that states a reason to support the thesis.*
Evidence, data, etc,
is provided to
prove T.S.

since disks are so small and light. The health benefits of CD-ROMS are clearly enormous!

Of course, some might ask about availability of computers. What if a student does not have the equipment needed at home to run a CD-ROM textbook?

The fact is that most children in this country have computer access at home - whether a small laptop or a larger setup. A recent US census study shows that 85% of school-age children have a computer at home. For those few without, computers are available to students at public libraries, and most public schools have laptop computers that students can borrow. So, the reality is that a lack of computer availability is not really a problem.

Body paragraph 3: begins with **counter argument** followed by rebuttal. Evidence, data, etc, is provided to disprove the counter argument.

Clearly, putting textbooks on CD-ROMs is a good idea for many reasons. CD-ROMs would save money, prevent health problems and is readily available to all students. All over the United States, people are using technology to solve problems. **Schools should follow this example by making CD-ROM textbooks available to their students.**

Closing paragraph: restates the thesis and ends with a **call to action.**

Works Cited

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