

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

Playing Games

A recent study led by neuroscientist Richard Haier indicates that playing video games can make the brain work more efficiently. Haier recruited 26 teenage girls and told 15 of them to play the game Tetris 90 minutes a week for three months. The other girls were told not to play video games. The researchers then took x-rays of the girls' brains, which showed that brain function in the Tetris players had become more efficient in areas linked to critical thinking and information processing. Look through the eEdition for another example of an activity teens enjoy that parents and teachers might not think is the best use of time. Brainstorm several ways the activity might be beneficial. Then write an eEdition editorial backing up your claim.

Learning Standards: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, persuasive essays, resumes and memos; acquiring information from multiple sources.

2

Elmo

To combat the H1N1 flu, or "swine flu," the government has teamed up with "Sesame Street" to create a series of public service announcements starring Elmo. Elmo tells kids to wash their hands frequently, sneeze into their elbows and avoid touching their faces, nose and eyes to avoid spreading the flu. Look through the eEdition and find another issue or event you think kids should be educated about. In groups, design a TV spot geared toward elementary schoolers explaining the issue. Write a short script and describe who would be in it and what the set would look like.

Learning Standards: Integrating listening, viewing, speaking, reading, and writing skills for multiple purposes and in varied contexts; designing a communication environment for maximum impact on the receiver.

3

Artwork

On September 7, 1911, poet Guillaume Apollinaire was arrested on suspicions of stealing the famous "Mona Lisa" painting from the Louvre museum in Paris, France. He was released shortly after. The painting was recovered months later when a former Louvre employee tried to sell it. Find an article in the eEdition that interests you. Look at images of different types of art, such as abstract art, cubism or realism in books and online. Pick a style you like. Then create a drawing or painting in that style representing the article.

Learning Standards: Analyzing the style and characteristics of authors, actors and artists of classics and masterpieces to determine why these voices endure; viewing strategically and representing creatively.

4

Democracy

Who will replace Edward Kennedy as U.S. senator from Massachusetts? Massachusetts law used to allow the governor to appoint a temporary replacement until a new senator could be elected, but five years ago the Democrat-controlled legislature passed a law requiring that a special election be held to fill the seat between 145 and 165 days after it becomes vacant. Now Democrats want to change the law again. Using the eEdition and online news sources, write a paragraph explaining how the Democrats want to change the law, and why.

Learning Standards: Identifying the purposes of national, state and local governments in the United States and describing how citizens organize government to accomplish their purposes.

5

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Learning Standards: Utilizing technology-based research tools to locate and collect information; analyzing the use and reliance on technology.

electronic pdf form and save it on your computer. The "print" tool allows you to print out a copy of a page and save it in a paper file. Get familiar with these functions by scanning pages in today's eEdition. Pick the front page of a section, or a page that has several stories on it. Download the page electronically to your computer (make sure you name it so you will recognize it later). Then print out the same page. Write a paragraph comparing the advantages of downloading and printing full pages. Which would you be most likely to do? Why?

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