

Reading Passage (256 words): Negative Views of Bloggers

Blogs, bloggers and blogging give voice and power to anyone with a computer. Topics of blogs range from opinion, literature, and all the way to food. Blogging creates a format for writers who are not qualified to write and help decline the art of writing. The reason blogging is not beneficial for the writer or reader is the lack of professionalism, integrity, and in-depth discourse.

Journalists and authors of books or articles usually have a great deal of experience and level of professionalism that bloggers do not possess. Journalists must attend college, find an internship, and finally begin to write. The process of true journalism is much more strenuous. A blogger can simply create a website about any subject, begin to write, and suddenly a blogger becomes a professional.

Published books, magazines, online articles, and newspapers merit integrity because the author and sources have been edited by a professional editor of the company. Drafts and more drafts of text are looked over with a professional eye. Another step to become a legitimate author is peer review; editors are used to ensure the success of proper and legitimized writing.

Because of the professionalism and integrity of authors and writing of non-blogs, we can count on the in-depth discourse of the material. The topics of blogs may be facetious in nature, and take serious topics such as politics and take it to the level of sarcasm or a rant. An opinion should not merit fact, and bloggers write as if they were professionals in their fields.

Writing Prompt: Summarize the lecture explaining how it casts doubt on the points made in the reading passage.

Lecture (352 words): Positive Views of Bloggers

There will always be different levels of what is considered authentic or legitimate writing. Typically, published articles, books, and news publications are viewed as authentic and legitimate writing. Today's lecture will attempt to defuse the animosity or discontent that many may have for bloggers. Guardians of legitimate writing will criticize three areas of blog authors: professionalism, integrity, and the lack of in-depth discourse.

Professionalism can mean many things, but most of us do think about true authors as published. That may be the case; however, a blogger has the opportunity to grow online because blogging can become a business. Blogging has created a niche market and allowed many unpublished authors to make a name for themselves online. Finally, an aspiring author can have a place to participate and be part of the culture of writing.

What blogs provide is a platform for many authors who would otherwise have to wait to write because their resume does not meet the requirements of a publishing house. Bloggers, because of the Internet, finally have a wonderful opportunity to improve and craft their writing directly to a place where they can experiment and be seen. Essentially, bloggers have defined writing integrity on their own terms.

Newspapers, magazines, and news publications all have opinion articles and sections. Blogging may have begun with opinions or rants, but many blog websites have branched out into the political arena as well as sports, academics, and social issues of the day. The idea that blogs are not "in-depth" discourse does not carry as much weight as it did in the past. Social and writing discourse has changed because of the success of blog websites. Bloggers are now called to comment on social and news networks.

Bloggging is a form that has become more important over the years because of the Internet. Now, blogs are part of the social sphere and have found their way in business and marketing. Blogs are now part of the overall internet and social experience because of the ambition and steadfastness of bloggers. Accepting blogs into the social sphere may have to be the next step.