Alerts for All

Weigh the benefits and drawbacks of connected tools.

SS24.5.17 "State and defend a position regarding the benefits and drawbacks of technological advancements in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two benefits of internet tools, circle two drawbacks, and write a 1 beside the sentence that states the writer's position.

How Should Towns Share Urgent News?

(1) In the 1990s, more families began using the internet at home. In the 2000s, smartphones put internet access in many pockets. Now a student can video-call a faraway grandparent, and a town can post a school closing online. These tools can send news quickly. That speed matters when people need to make plans or check on loved ones.

(2) Quick messages can also cause trouble. A false storm warning can spread before anyone checks it. Some families cannot afford a phone or a reliable internet connection, so they may miss online updates. Apps may collect personal details, too. A fast message is not automatically a true or fair one. People need other ways to get important information.

(3) My position is that towns should use online alerts but should never make them the only way to share urgent news. Speed helps families respond, yet an online-only alert can leave neighbors out. Towns could also use radio announcements and printed notices in public places. Before sharing an alert, readers can check the town's official message to avoid passing along a rumor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Should a town post urgent alerts online? State your position and support it with one benefit from the passage.

2. Should online alerts be a town's only way to share urgent news? State your position and use one drawback from the passage to defend it.

3. A friend wants to forward a storm warning right away. What should your friend do first? Defend your position with a detail from the passage.

4. A town wants to add radio announcements to its online alerts. Do you support this plan? Defend your position using one benefit and one drawback from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum is deciding whether to offer a phone app with facts about its exhibits. In 4 to 5 sentences, state your position, give one possible benefit and one possible drawback, and explain how the museum could handle the drawback.

ANSWER KEY

Alerts for All

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.17

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two benefits of internet tools, circle two drawbacks, and write a 1 beside the sentence that states the writer's position. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Should a town post urgent alerts online? State your position and support it with one benefit from the passage.	**Yes. Online alerts send news quickly, which helps families make plans.**
2	Should online alerts be a town's only way to share urgent news? State your position and use one drawback from the passage to defend it.	**No. Families without a phone or reliable internet connection might miss the alerts.**
3	A friend wants to forward a storm warning right away. What should your friend do first? Defend your position with a detail from the passage.	**My friend should check the town's official message first because a false warning can spread before anyone checks it.**
4	A town wants to add radio announcements to its online alerts. Do you support this plan? Defend your position using one benefit and one drawback from the passage.	**Yes. Online alerts share news quickly, but families without reliable internet may miss them. Radio gives the town another way to reach people.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The museum should offer a phone app, but it should keep human guides too. Visitors could use the app to read facts whenever they want. Some visitors may not own a phone or have a reliable connection. Keeping guides would help those visitors enjoy the exhibits.

Accept different positions when students defend them with relevant passage details. For the museum task, accept reasonable benefits, drawbacks, and solutions that fit the student's position.