

## Essay 5: Tablets vs. Textbooks



Publishing for the K-12 school market is an \$8 billion industry, with three companies – McGraw-Hill, Pearson, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – capturing about 85% of this market. Tablets are a \$35 billion industry with roughly one in three adults owning a tablet. As tablets have become more prevalent, a new debate has formed over whether schools should switch from print textbooks to digital textbooks on tablets.<sup>1</sup>

### Your task

You are to write a 500-750 word five-paragraph persuasive essay on one of the following topics:

1. Tablets help students learn better than textbooks.
2. Textbooks help students learn better than tablets.

Your essay should include the following:

1. Introductory paragraph
2. Four body paragraphs (2 arguments, 1 counterargument, 1 refutation)
3. Concluding paragraph

Your essay will be assessed on the following:

1. Well-developed introduction with an opening sentence that attracts the reader's attention, related background information, and a restricted thesis sentence that indicates pattern of development, specific topic, and aspects/categories
2. Body paragraphs that include topic sentences that are well developed by major and minor supporting sentences, and transitions
3. Well-developed conclusion with a topic sentence, summary of main points, and concluding sentence

### Resources

While you may access the following sites for information, you must cite your source and paraphrase the information:

1. Tablets vs. Textbooks on ProCon.org Website at <http://tablets-textbooks.procon.org/>
2. The Future of Education: Tablets vs. Textbooks by Margaret Rock at <http://mashable.com/2012/10/05/tablets-vs-textbooks/>

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<sup>1</sup> "Tablets vs. Textbooks," ProCon.org, <http://tablets-textbooks.procon.org/>