Introduction:

Never have there been more questions about the role of media in children’s lives. New research shows that young people spend as much time engaged with media – seven hours – as they do sleeping. Hardly a week goes by without public debate about violent video games, educational TV, depressed computer-users, gender stereotypes in rap music, the technology gap between rich and poor, or the online dangers lurking just behind the computer screen. At the very same time, there has never been such a push to use media proactively to reach young people with information or positive messages. The world has seen peaceful revolutions spread through the deliberate use of the tools of digital media. It is clear that young people use media to connect, create, and innovate. Youth write, create art work and define political change online. International science projects on climate change assemble data from individuals around the world, organizations raise money for the victims of disaster, and human rights activists collect and distribute vital information. So what does it mean to grow up in a world that is so wired? What are the dangers? Where are the opportunities?

From http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8C901879-B581-437F-85312EF5B0F1FBB7/0/NYCDOEG9_10LiteracyNewMedia_Final.pdf

Topic Categories:

Note: This is a list of broad topics you could think about for this paper. Remember, for your thesis, you’ll need to get specific: “Twilight and other romances portray unhealthy teen relationships and are a bad influence on young readers,” “Video games are valuable educational tools and should be integrated into classroom instruction,” or “TV shows like 16 and Pregnant glamorize the lifestyle of a teen parent and promote teen pregnancy.”

Media use overall:

- Is media use limiting or changing how we think and what we can imagine?
- Is media use improving individuals and the world?
- Does social media make us more alone?

Arts and Media:

- Literature
- Video Games
- Music
- Movies
- Television
- Pop Culture
- Magazines
- Advertising

New Media:

- Texting
- Cell phones
- Internet/Computers
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Privacy issues in social media
- Bullying and social media

**For more topic ideas, check out this link from the New York Times—Look specifically at the social media and arts and media categories: http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/04/200-prompts-for-argumentative-writing/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0
Resources:

*Note: For your final paper, you’ll need three sources, and one of those can be from me.

- “The Medium is the Medium”
- John McWhorter’s TED talk: “Txtng is killing language. JK!!!” [http://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk](http://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk)
- Nancy Lublin’s TED talk: “Texting that saves lives” [http://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_lublin_texting_that_saves_lives](http://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_lublin_texting_that_saves_lives)
- “For Better Social Skills, Scientists Recommend a Little Chekhov” [http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/03/i-know-how-youre-feeling-i-read-chekhov/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=2](http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/03/i-know-how-youre-feeling-i-read-chekhov/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=2)
- “Reading Literature Makes Us Smarter and Nicer” [http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/03/why-we-should-read-literature/](http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/03/why-we-should-read-literature/)