Prompt

*Computer software that allows parents to monitor their teens’ behavior might be scary, but it’s a good idea. Of course, there is a fine line between being responsibly protective and irresponsibly nosy. You shouldn’t monitor to find out your daughter’s friend has a crush on Kevin next door, or that Mrs. Peterson gives too much homework, or which schoolmate snubbed your son. You are there to start conversations to be a safety net. To borrow from the national intelligence lexicon—and yes, that’s uncomfortable—you’re listening for dangerous chatter. Anything less would be neglect.*

**Explain Coben’s argument, and discuss the ways in which you agree or disagree with his analysis and conclusion and why. Support your position by providing reasons and examples from your own experiences, observations, readings.**

Your audience is a person who is educated, but he or she is not an expert on this article. Present your argument (thesis) and support it throughout the essay—argue for your side (why should the reader agree with your argument?). Anticipate the argument of someone who would go against your thesis. Make sure you provide enough information for the reader to see the other side of the argument. Then, refute the argument. Show why your argument is more sensible—use evidence.

Before you begin: reflect on the following questions for your evidence.

1. What evidence might you have to use in response to Coben’s position?
2. How closely does this piece of evidence relate to the claim (topic sentence) it is supposed to support?
3. How well will the evidence suit the audience?
4. Does the evidence make the strongest point? Or would another piece of evidence be stronger?
5. Does your citation of Coben’s article go along with the claim or against it? Why are you including this piece of text from Coben’s article?

Look at these assignments. There may be something you could use for your essay.

1. Descriptive outline
2. SOAPSTone
3. Key Vocabulary (connotations of words)
4. Noticing Language
5. Annotations of Coben’s examples. Reactions to Coben’s evidence (questions based upon Coben’s examples)
6. Ethos, Pathos, Logos
7. Analyzing Stylistic Choices (Group activity)
8. Précis
9. Personal Response

**Structure of the Essay**

**Introduction:**

Attention grabber

Background information the audience may need.

Introduction and Explanation of Coben’s argument

Thesis (Your opinion about using spyware to monitor children’s technology use)

**Body Paragraphs:**

Provide different claims that support the thesis statement.

Make sure to include citations of Coben’s text in relation to the claim you are making.

It is important to incorporate specific evidence that directly supports your position (thesis statement). The evidence can come in the form of examples from your experience, observations, or readings.

Include a paragraph on an opposing viewpoint.

Have a response to the opposing viewpoint; show how your position is better using strong evidence.

**Conclusion:**

Why does the argument you are making matter? Why should anyone care?