1. How does Coben characterize the challenges of parenting? What language does he use to suggest that parents face painful and sometimes morally ambiguous (hard to tell what’s right and wrong) issues?
2. Coben begins six sentences in his short essay with the word “but” or “yet.” What is the rhetorical effect of the abrupt shift in direction that these sentences bring about? What do you think Coben chose to start so many sentences with such a strong transition?
3. Why does Coben use colons (:) to introduce important ideas in paragraphs 2 and 4? What is the rhetorical effect of this punctuation choice?
4. Why does Coben create a contrast between “loving parents” and “faceless bureaucrats” in paragraph 4?
5. What is the purpose of Coben’s observation that “most parents already monitor their children, watching over their home environment, their school?
6. Why does Coben use an interruption set off by dashes in paragraph 7 (“and this is where it gets tough)? What is rhetorical effect of this interruption?
7. Coben begins both paragraphs 11 and paragraph 12 with rhetorical questions that he answers himself: “Am I suggesting eavesdropping on every conversation?” and “Will your teenagers find other ways of communicating to their findings to their friends when they realize you may be watching? What is the rhetorical function of these questions and answers?
8. Why does Coben refer to computers as a “machine”? What are the connotations of this word?
9. What rhetorical effect does paragraph 3 have on the reader?
10. Why does Coben include the last sentence in paragraph 10? Explain.