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District Writing Assessment Essay

Pokemon was released in the year 1995 in Japan and has been a successful franchise since. IN 2016, Pokemon decided to work with Niantic to create the most downloaded app of Summer 2016: Pokemon Go. It's a nice game, with amazing graphics, easy to learn, and fun for everyone. But the question is, should teenagers play the game? There are many dangers to playing the game. The downside of Pokemon Go is that it raises safety issues, it takes a lot of data, and it gets people distracted or stressed. The issue is discussed in the articles "'Pokemon Go' Craze Raises Safety Issues" by Sarah E. Needleman, "Pokemon Go: The One Serious Problem Everyone Should Worry About" by Bernard Murr, and "The Psychological Pros and Cons of Pokemon Go" adapted from "Psychology Today".

To begin with, Pokemon Go raises safety issues. Playing the game has many dangers in which the player can get hurt from. In the article "'Pokemon Go' Craze Raises Safety Issues", Needleman states, "The placements of PokeStops and gyms raise questions about whether players could get hurt searching unsafe areas - a dark alley or along a river, for example - particularly while staring at a smartphone screen." This indicates that the app could lead people into dangerous areas or places they shouldn't be at. They could get mugged or trip and fall. Also in the same article, Needleman states, "The mapping technology in 'Pokemon Go' doesn't warn players if a PokeStop is in an area that recently suffered storm damage or has high crime rates, for example." This means that the app isn't safe or at its

safest either. Niantic needs to update and input these features because they could be putting players in danger. So, the game Pokemon Go has safety issues if where they put their PokeStops.

Secondly, the app takes a lot of data of the players. Since the app wants to be at its best and be comfortable with the player it takes a lot of personal data. In the article "Pokemon Go: The One Serious Problem Everyone Should Worry About", Murr states, "Pokemon Go uses your phone's location, your IP address, and the webpage you most recently visited before playing, all connected with your real name and account information…" All this data could be misused in someway. How do we know someone can't hack the servers and get people's information. This game isn't safe for teenagers to use. Murr also states in his article, "Especially with apps, where we download something for free and want to start using it quickly, people never read the lengthy terms of service agreements they're happily agreeing to, and don't understand the full information they're voluntarily giving away." I'm one of those people who doesn't really read the terms of service agreements. But I at least skim through most of it just to see what I'm agreeing to. Most people don't do that. That's why it's not safe for teenagers to be using.

Lastly, the app distracts people or stressed them out. It can be really frustrating and stressful when the Pokemon you want doesn't stay in the Pokeball. In the article from "Psychology Today" titled "The Psychological Pros and Cons of Pokemon Go", states, "Some psychological cons are that even when players are outside, they are distracted by being on their phones." People could get hurt if they're not careful. Being distracted has raised chances of getting injured. So teenagers would not be safe playing the game. The author also states, "players are continuously in a heightened "stressed" state, making them less social or willing to talk to others…" This means that Pokemon Go raises stress or anxiety, making them less social. Being a teenager, I think you should be social and make friends. But

there are reasons why Pokemon Go should be played such as how the fact that you could get more exercise and that's important because many kids are obese and need the exercise. But it's still unsafe to use the app.

To conclude, teenagers shouldn't play Pokemon Go because of the many safety issues, the personal collected, and the distractions and becoming stressed out. It's an important topic because people get depressed at around this age and it would be very unfortunate if someone hacks your account causing more stress. Also consider the safety of people. So many accident occur while playing this game. That's why teenagers shouldn't play Pokemon Go.