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Author's Note: As of now, I'm a General Studies major. I've got my eyes set on Medical Lab Technology at PCC and will hopefully attend OIT in the future. I chose this topic for my essay because it was one I knew great details about and it was the latest piece of technology. I enjoyed working on it from beginning to end.

Temptation

For so long I've wanted a computer of my own. When winter term 2007 began, I realized that I really did need one, so I went out one night and bought myself a Toshiba Notebook. *Wow! Is this really mine?* Since that night my eyes are set on the laptop computer that sits on top of my desk from the moment I get up out of bed until I go to sleep. I turn on the computer and start playing music before I go to the bathroom. When I get back, the music is still playing and the black chair that sits in front of my desk awaits me. *Maybe I should play one game of Yahoo! Pool.* I sit on the chair and that one game leads to two games, then three, then four. *Oops! I accidentally hit the Start Game button again. Looks like I'm going to have to play this game because my rating will go down if I exit right now.* The next thing I know, I'm on it for hours. Although my laptop computer is distracting, uncomfortable, and costly, it is convenient, reduces clutter, and is very entertaining.

The laptop computer distracts me from doing my schoolwork. When I'm in the middle of my math homework or typing a paper, I go on the internet and check my page on MySpace or log on to Windows Live Messenger and chat with my friends and family from back home, which is Saipan. If it is not MySpace or Windows Live Messenger that I get on, then it is downloading or changing the music a couple of times. One thing leads to another and I find myself playing pool online at Yahoo! It gets so tempting that it

takes me a while for me to realize that I need to get that paper typed up and that math homework done before the next day.

Another drawback is that my laptop computer is uncomfortable. Whenever I use the touch pad, the pointer would go all over the screen and open programs I did not intend to open. I would click on the close button using the touch pad and the pointer would go straight to the File or Start menu. For that reason, I bought myself a mouse so that I could control the pointer and not get irritated as much. The keyboard is uncomfortable as well. It is flat, which makes it easy for me to make typos; it has no numeric keypad so when I type numbers it slows me down in typing; and it is too far up near the screen so I have to lean forward to type. After being on the computer for some time, my eyes start squinting and my back slouches.

The major downside to having a laptop computer is that it costs a lot of money. I purchased mine for \$850. I had to buy a mouse for my computer and a printer that cost \$80, and I applied for high speed internet. It is a brand new computer so if it breaks down on me in the future, it is going to cost a lot of money just to have it repaired. If someone ever broke into my apartment or it catches fire again, replacing the computer would cost the same price I bought it for or even more. Also, having it upgraded would cost money again.

Nevertheless, my laptop computer is convenient for schoolwork and keeping in touch with family and friends. Now that I have Microsoft Word installed in my computer, I can type my essays and research papers without going to the library or computer lab at school. I can work directly from my room and not have to worry about not having a typed essay for writing class or a typed outline for speech class. When I'm

in need of help, I can easily e-mail instructors on how to do the work. Saipan, which is located in the Pacific Ocean and thousands of miles away from Oregon, is where most of my family and friends are. I keep in touch with them through MySpace and Windows Live Messenger. I usually chat with my oldest sister on Windows Live Messenger while she's at work. With MySpace I can view pictures of my friends and leave comments on their pages like *how are you doing* and *I miss you*. Another handy feature of my laptop is that it is portable and lightweight. This allows me to bring it almost anywhere with me.

In addition, my laptop computer reduces the clutter in my room and study table. It's not so bulky like regular desktop computers, so I have more desk space to study. The printer on my study table already adds clutter to my space so having this laptop makes it easier for me to move it anywhere I want to. I can unplug it and move it with a single hand and not lift as much whenever I need the desk space to study.

The best thing about my laptop computer is the entertainment it has. Without turning on my computer and waiting for the programs to load on startup, I can easily play DVDs and audio CDs using the Express Media Player. Also, the Media Center allows me to record live TV, play games, listen to music, and watch DVDs. I can create my own DVDs as well using the InterVideo WinDVD Creator, which I love to do. The program I use to play music and videos is the Windows Media Player. There are other programs like QuickTime Player and RealPlayer that do about the same thing, but I got used to Windows Media Player. With this program I can listen to clips of songs from artists I like and watch music videos. My laptop computer came with many games like Mah Jong Quest, Collapse 3, Bejeweled 2, Scrabble, and others that I enjoy playing. My trial time with Bejeweled 2 ended the first time I started playing it. Now, I save the games unless

I'm really bored and have absolutely nothing to do so that my trial time with them doesn't run out.

Even though there are some drawbacks to having a laptop computer, the money I spent on it has been well worth it. The music has been playing since I started typing this paper. Yes, I keep going back and forth changing the music, playing Minesweeper, and going on MySpace. It's hard to ignore all these tempting things that are right in front of my eyes. So I think I'll play a few rounds of Minesweeper then Yahoo! Pool before I study for my midterm exam for speech class.

Instructor's Note: Is a computer a necessary educational tool for most students? Is it a distraction that interferes with homework? Angela Rosario shows that her laptop is both. As you read her detailed descriptions, you may find that she's describing your own love-hate relationship with a computer. In addition to showing how enticing her laptop is, Angela organizes and focuses her essay so clearly that readers can probably tell exactly what the assignment was: to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of a modern technology.

--Beth Sammons