

Lesson Plan

A Smart House?

Book: *All About Smart Technology*

Series: Cutting-Edge Technology

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice writing opinion pieces and support their viewpoints with logical reasons, specific facts, and evidence.

Supplies

- *All About Smart Technology*
- Whiteboard
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read through the *All About Smart Technology* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Make two columns on the whiteboard, and label them “Pros” and “Cons.”

Activity

After reading the *All About Smart Technology* book, ask students to brainstorm a list of pros and cons about living in a smart house. Write their answers on the whiteboard.

Then ask the students to write an essay explaining whether or not they would want to live in a smart house. The essay should be five paragraphs long. It should have an introduction, a conclusion, and three body paragraphs. Each body paragraph should give a reason that explains the student’s choice. Each reason should include specific facts or information from the book as supporting evidence. To cite their sources, students should include the author’s name, along with the page number where they found the fact, in parentheses at the end of the relevant sentence.

Example: If someone leaves the air conditioner running, a smart house could receive a signal from the person’s cell phone that could turn off the air conditioning (Blakemore 17).

Evaluation

Did the students choose three reasons that supported their position? Did they use facts from the book to support each of their three reasons? Did they include the author’s name and page number after the facts?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grades 4, 5, and 6 (W 4.1; W 5.1; W 6.1).