

## Possible Answers for *Successful College Writing, Sixth Edition* – Chapter 1

### Understanding the Reading (“The New Marshmallow Test”)

1. Students find it difficult to resist using their electronic devices to access “multiple streams of information and entertainment” while studying, and this form of multitasking is impairing their ability to learn.
2. Short-term effects: Inability to pay attention in class, longer time needed to do assignments, and potential for making more mistakes; long-term effects: impaired memory, mental inflexibility, lower grades, and “spottier,” “shallower” learning.
3. A psychological experiment showed that children who could delay eating their marshmallow scored better on a test. A new version would challenge students to “resist the lure of technology.”

### Analyzing the Writer’s Technique

1. Several large-scale and recent studies conducted by psychologists at major research universities. The evidence seems reliable, but students may find it unconvincing because Murphy Paul describes them briefly and because the evidence shows that electronic multitasking has only negative effects.
2. Because, as the headnote indicates, she writes about learning for a variety of publications.
3. A general audience (the article was published in *Slate*, a “general-interest magazine,” and the tone seems objective and reportorial), but the subject would be of particular interest to teachers, students, and parents.

#### Ex 1.1

Answers will vary.

#### Ex 1.2

Answers will vary, but strategies may include studying with a partner or in a group led by a facilitator (tutor, mentor, trained classmate), or using a technique such as SQ3R or the Cornell Note-Taking Method.

#### Ex 1.3

Answers will vary.

#### Ex 1.4

Answers will vary.

#### Ex 1.5

Answers will vary.

#### Ex 1.6

Answers will vary.

#### Ex. 1.7

Sample questions: Does it matter whether students use a paper planner or an electronic one? Are there any taboo topics for discussion or papers?