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District Writing Assessment

Pokémon is one of the most successful franchises to date. It's initial release back in 1995 in Japan, although it went by a different name, Pocket Monsters. It eventually spread to the rest of the world and became an instant success. Its innovative gameplay became the reason of its success and eventually led to an animé series. In it, Ash Ketchum travels the world, catching Pokémon along the way. Pokémon GO was the attempt to implement what made the game so popular into an app so everyone could feel like Ash Ketchum. However, implementing Pokémon into real life meant various issues for the people who played it. This includes psychological issues, distracting players from the world around them, and resulting in players going into places they're not supposed to go.

Pokemon GO a very consumer friendly game for people of all ages. It is based off of an animé series designed for people of all ages. What it psychologically does to players is not as consumer friendly. Supporters of the game argue that, as stated in Document D, which states, "The app has the potential to benefit people who would not otherwise be motivated or able to leave the house due to fear or anxiety." People are afraid of the outside world for a very good reason. Not everyone in the world is as nice as we would like them to be. Many people are judgemental of the game, as well as those that play it. Going into the world may also result hate comments from those that disapprove of the game.No one likes to receive hate comments, and

this definitely lowers someone's self-esteem. Some other studies done by "Psychology Today" have shown that "Some psychological cons are that even when players are outside, they are distracted by being on their phones, and players are continuously in a heightened "stressed" state, making players less social or willing to talk with others, which can increase the difficulty of separating reality and fantasy. " People are going outside, getting some fresh air, and burning a few calories in the process, but are still glued to their phones. Being glued to their phones results in being distracted from surroundings, and results in the next issue.

The world around us is beautiful. But to teens, technology is also beautiful. This results in them constantly staring at their phones, and results in lots of accidents. According to Document D, it says "However, some say this very reason can lead to injury. News reports say that users have tripped, fallen into a lake, crashed a car, and sustained other injuries while playing." While people are burning calories and getting some fresh air, they are tripping into lakes, breaking bones, and causing traffic accidents. The app was made to get people outside, but in the process has resulted in some broken bones, and more likely, broken phones. Another issue with playing Pokémon GO is it makes the players easy targets for criminals. As declared in the same document, "On the other hand, critics of the game say that when distracted players are outside, they are being targeted by criminals." The critics have a very good point, as being attached to their phones, maybe they decide to go into an alleyway to catch a Pikachu or Pidgey, and then get robbed because they weren't paying attention to their surroundings. Which leads to another issue, going into places players are not supposed to go.

Some places have high security, and sometimes for good reasons. Maybe the owners have guard dogs so they can protect their home from intruders, but then a player sees a wild

Lapras in the backyard of some house and decides to catch it. Pokémon GO has this issue, as stated in Document A, which states “The game could be leading people into areas where they don’t belong,” such as construction sites or shuttered storefronts, said Don Boyes, an associate professor of geography and planning at University of Toronto. “ So people are going into construction sites, and are risking getting hit in the head by a stray metal beam. They could also be going into high security homes by accident, and be wrongfully charged for trespassing. Niantic has chosen not to fix this issue, but they should as it results in some very unlucky Pokémon trainers.

Pokémon GO has done many things right, but also done many things wrong. Players burn calories, but possibly end with a broken bone or phone. They are distracted from this beautiful world we are stuck in. It will be a perfect app once all of its edges have been smoothed over. But until then, it is still hazardous to play. All the same, it is not worth playing and end up with broken bones and criminal charges.

My score for this essay was a 5 and a 5.