“Trouble with Television”

Literary Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences using correct grammar.**

1. A.) Find places where MacNeil says that television appeals to short attention spans. Be sure to explain. B.) Why does he repeat this idea?
2. A.) What is one source MacNeil quotes to give his proposition authority? B.) Explain how he uses the source for support. C.) Identify and explain one more persuasive technique.
3. A.) What does MacNeil criticize about nightly news shows on television? B.) Do you agree or disagree with his criticism of television news? Support your answer.
4. MacNeill wrote his speech in 1984, before cable and internet were popular. A.) How does this essay reflect the historical era in which it was written? B.) Are his opinions and information still relevant today? C.) How might he update his criticism to include new media?

**Directions: In the chart below, classify each statement as a fact, an opinion, a generalization, or an overgeneralization.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Statement | Type of statement | Explanation |
| Almmost anything interesting and rewarding in life requires some constructive…effort |  |  |
| But television encourages us to apply no effort |  |  |
| …by the age of 20 you will have been exposed to at least 20,000 hours of television |  |  |
| I think this society is being forced fed with trivial fare… |  |  |