



## Identifying Issues and Debates – Wohlsen’s Article (Sample Answers)

Initial Questions	Use these questions to start thinking about the issues and debates in the article.
<b>What is the author’s main argument?</b>	
Wohlsen argues that skills in “computational thinking” and the logic of coding will be crucial in a world driven by information technology, and not just for those involved directly in computer programming.	
<b>What is the author’s main goal? Why did they write the article?</b>	
Wohlsen wants to convince his audience that we, in society, face a challenge of trying to define <b>digital literacy</b> and that this challenge is important to solve. He writes the article to get his audience thinking about <b>what skills young people really will need</b> in the future.	
<b>What field(s) of study does the writer connect with?</b>	
Wohlsen is writing in a technology magazine. His concerns and goals would be linked to working in the <b>computer technology field</b> , including computer programming. But also, his ideas would be of interest to the <b>field of education</b> , and perhaps social policy development.	
<b>Who is the writer’s audience?</b>	
Wohlsen’s audience are the readers of a popular online technology journal; the audience would certainly have some interest in <b>the role of digital technology in our working and social lives</b> .	
These sample answers have highlighted key phrases that are clues to identifying the issues and debates in the article.	
Issues and Debates	<p>Use these steps to present the issues and debates in the article.</p> <p>A. <b>Using the ideas from above, identify two or three different issues or debates in the article.</b></p> <p>B. <b>Indicate what position the article takes on that debate.</b></p>
<b>Issue or Debate #1</b>	
<b>Describe the issue or debate.</b>	
<p><b>Education:</b></p> <p>What do students need to know? What should we be doing in school today to ensure young people have the skills they need to succeed in today’s computer-driven society?</p>	
<b>What position in the issue or debate does the author take?</b>	
Not everyone would agree with Wohlsen’s focus on the benefits of a heavy emphasis on computer skills and coding in schools.	



## Sample Answers

<b>Issue or Debate #2</b>
<b>Describe the issue or debate.</b>
<b>Digital Literacy:</b> How have computers changed what we know and what we need to know? Computer technology has changed the priorities in our world. Given we live in a world dominated by digital information technology, what skills and knowledge do we need to handle it?
<b>What position in the issue or debate does the author take?</b>
Wohlsen's emphasis is on coding, but not everyone sees it that way. Others might define digital literacy as simply being able to use digital devices and software.
<b>Issue or Debate #3</b>
<b>Describe the issue or debate.</b>
<b>Information technology and data:</b> How will we be able to manage the mass data that we can now collect in society? What does a data-driven society look like? How will it be different from the past and what opportunities and challenges will we face?
<b>What position in the issue or debate does the author take?</b>
Wohlsen's focus on the primacy of technology may lead him to overstate the value of data in society.
<b>Add more issues or debates as you find them.</b>