



TASKS

- 1 Outline the problems of “computer have-nots” and measures taken to improve their situation. (30 %)
(Text A)

- 2 Describe and analyze the chart (Text B). Then explain to what extent it is a useful illustration for Text A. (30 %)

- 3 Choose **one** of the following tasks:
 - 3.1 “Those left behind are increasingly isolated and disadvantaged as more of life’s basic information [...] has moved online.” (Text A, ll. 6-8) Explain the quotation and assess how the Internet can help people who are “isolated and disadvantaged”. Take Ms. Fuentes’s experiences as a starting point. (40 %)

OR

- 3.2 Comment on the ways new media have influenced the working lives of Ms. Fuentes and another real-life person or a character from literature/film. (40 %)

OR

- 3.3 Write an article for a computer teen magazine discussing to what extent the companies and nonprofit organizations mentioned in the text might serve as models for Internet development in other parts of the world. (40 %)

Text A: Excerpt from the article

Hispanics Rank High on Digital Divide

By Scott James

[...]

Though it rarely makes headlines these days, the digital divide - the gap between the computer haves and have-nots - remains reality for thousands in the Bay Area, a remarkable situation considering this is home to Google, Apple, Facebook and many other titans of technology.

5 An estimated one in five adults in California do not use the Internet, and 30 percent do not have broadband access at home - about the same as the national average. Those left behind are increasingly isolated and disadvantaged as more of life's basic information, like vital community news or transit schedules or job listings, has moved online.

The divide is most severe in California's Latino community, where 35 percent of adults do not use the
10 Internet at all, and only 50 percent have broadband access at home. Other groups fare better, according to a 2010 study by the Public Policy Institute of California, a nonpartisan research group: whites (90 percent use the Internet, 82 percent have broadband access at home), Asians (87 percent Internet, 77 percent broadband) and blacks (82 percent Internet, 70 percent broadband).

Grandiose plans announced by some cities (like San Francisco in 2004) to help close the gap with city-
15 wide free wireless Internet access have mostly fizzled due to political disputes and financing.

But where governments have failed, others have stepped in.

MonkeyBrains.net is a small Internet service provider in the Mission district with funky offices that are a cramped imaginarium of spare parts and artwork. But unlike Apple, the company has made universal Internet access one of its core tenets, at its own expense.

20 Rudy Rucker, a MonkeyBrains.net co-founder, excitedly showed off electric-toothbrush-sized antennas the company has placed throughout the city, adjacent to paying customers' equipment, providing free Wi-Fi to all in range.

"This is the digital divide device," Mr. Rucker said.

"It's our social contract," he added, explaining why the company donates its resources. "If you want to
25 do anything, you need to be online."

Ada Fuentes, 28, who immigrated to San Francisco from Honduras six years ago, recently entered the digital age thanks to Caminos, a nonprofit organization in the Mission that teaches computer skills to low-income Latina immigrants.

In the past 18 months Ms. Fuentes has learned Web browsing, word processing and spreadsheets - skills
30 she used to start a fledgling company selling cleaning products online.

"I've been getting more and more business," she said in Spanish, also marveling at how Skype has enabled her to video chat with relatives in New York and Los Angeles.

But Ms. Fuentes said her learning was initially stymied because her only online access was at public libraries, where demand for computers was so great that she was limited to 30 minutes a visit. She has
35 since bought a laptop and set up a wireless Internet connection in her home.

Graciela Tiscareño-Sato, a former telecommunications executive and author of the new book "Latinno- vating: Green American Jobs and the Latinos Creating Them", said people like Ms. Fuentes are becoming increasingly common as Latinos see the value of connecting to the digital world.

"They see that without communication a lot of nothing happens, but with it anything is possible," Ms.
40 Tiscareño-Sato said. [...]

(523 words)

Source:James, Scott. "Hispanics Rank High on Digital Divide." *The New York Times* June 17, 2011. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/17/us/17bcjames.html>.

[04 September 2012]



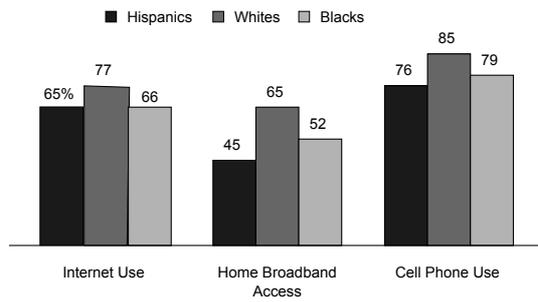
Annotations

Lines

2	Bay Area	region surrounding the city of San Francisco
4	titans	<i>here:</i> very influential or important people or companies
5-6	broadband access	high-speed Internet availability
7	transit schedules	public transport timetables
8	job listings	job offers
11	nonpartisan	free from the influence of political parties or special interest groups
15	to fizzle	to stop happening because of lack of interest
17	Mission district	part of San Francisco with a mixture of Internet professionals and Latinos
18	imaginarium	place with everything one could imagine
19	core tenet	main principle
21	adjacent	next to
22	Wi-Fi	wireless networking
28	Latina	feminine form of Latino
29	spreadsheet	computer application for accounting in tabular form, <i>German:</i> Tabellenkalkulation
30	fledgling	<i>here:</i> young, still developing
33	to stymie	to hinder

Text B: Chart

Technology Use by Race and Ethnicity, 2010



Notes: N=1,375 for Hispanics, 4,664 for whites and 630 for blacks

Source: Pew Hispanic Center 2010 National Survey of Latinos, Pew Internet and American Life Project August 2010 Health Tracking Survey

Annotations

In this chart, technology refers to **digital** technology in the USA.

N = a nationally representative sample of the entire USA population

The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are often used interchangeably in the USA.