

Reading Questions for “The Trouble With Television” Name _____

1. Write down the sentence that contains the opinion of the author in the 1st paragraph.

2. Write down one fact that the author uses to back up the opinion statement in 1st paragraph.

3. On p. 520, what is the first negative “trouble” about television that he talks about? How does he support this claim?

4. On p. 521, what does he say is the “prime motive of most television programming”?

5. How does television programming keep our attention, according to Mr. MacNeil?

6. What does he think news shows result in? Why does he think the news is not “really absorbable and understandable?”

Matching vocabulary

- ____ 1. diverts (p 520)
- ____ 2. usurps (p520, 2nd para.)
- ____ 3. pervading (p520)
- ____ 4. trivial (p523)
- ____ 5. coherence (p522)
- ____ 6. anachronism (p523)

- a. quality of being connected in a way that is easily understood
- b. of little importance, insignificant
- c. distracts; entertains or amuses
- d. to seize and hold, or use without authority or permission
- e. something that seems to be out of its proper place in history
- f. spreading throughout