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In the contemporary digital age, the Internet has become a ubiquitous presence in our lives, influencing the way we communicate, learn, and entertain ourselves. Two significant rhetorical explorations that delve into the implications of our online behaviors and interactions are Goldsmith's "Go Ahead: Waste Time on the Internet" and Wortham's "Has Coronavirus Made the Internet Better?" Both essays address the Internet as a central force in modern society, yet their rhetoric and the angles they adopt differ significantly. This essay compares the rhetorical strategies, appeals, and overarching messages of the two authors, revealing how each contributes uniquely to our understanding of the Internet's role in contemporary life.

Goldsmith's essay presents a provocative defense of the seemingly trivial act of wasting time online. He argues that spending time on the Internet, often dismissed as unproductive, can foster creativity, relaxation, and even connections with others. His rhetorical approach is informal and conversational, inviting readers to reconsider their attitudes toward time spent online. Goldsmith employs humor and relatable anecdotes that resonate with readers, thereby crafting a sense of camaraderie. The underlying purpose of his rhetoric is to validate personal experiences with the Internet and to challenge societal norms that equate productivity with the value of time usage.

In contrast, Wortham's piece is reflective and critical, examining how the COVID-19 pandemic has altered our relationship with the Internet. Wortham employs a more analytical tone to discuss both the positive and negative implications of increased online activity during the pandemic. He considers the Internet's dual role as both a facilitator of connection and a potential source of isolation. His purpose is to prompt a deeper examination of how the Internet has evolved during a crisis and to question whether

these changes signify a lasting improvement in our online interactions. The rhetorical strategies used here are more structured, relying on logical reasoning and empirical observations to persuade the audience.

Goldsmith's use of ethos and pathos is central to his rhetorical success. By sharing personal anecdotes and humorous observations, he establishes an emotional connection with readers, inviting them to reflect on their experiences with online distractions. For instance, he might recount the ridiculous yet relatable escapades of scrolling through social media or getting lost in video links. These narratives create an atmosphere that is engaging and affirming, appealing to the audience's sense of shared experience.

In contrast, Wortham leans more heavily on logos, using statistics and expert opinions to frame his argument about the Internet's evolving landscape during the pandemic. He systematically explores various perspectives, presenting a balanced view that acknowledges both the advantages and disadvantages of increased online usage. His rhetorical approach encourages critical thinking, inviting readers to engage with the complexities of the subject matter rather than embracing a simplistic view of the Internet as either wholly beneficial or entirely harmful.

The tonal differences between the two pieces reflect their respective purposes and audiences. Goldsmith's tone is light-hearted, almost rebellious, as he encourages readers to abandon guilt associated with "wasting time." This tone helps to create a more relaxed reading experience, which may invite those who might otherwise dismiss the notion of indulging in online distractions. Goldsmith's rhetorical flair does more than entertain; it challenges readers to reassess how they perceive time, productivity, and leisure.

Conversely, Wortham adopts a more serious and contemplative style. His careful phrasing and use of nuanced language indicate a thoughtful grappling with the implications of our online lives amid the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic. While there is an acknowledgment of the Internet's

role in fostering connections during a time of social distancing, there is also a warning about the potential pitfalls of over-reliance on digital interactions. This tone serves to remind readers that while the Internet can be a tool for positive experience, it is not without its challenges.

In conclusion, both Goldsmith's "Go Ahead: Waste Time on the Internet" and Wortham's "Has Coronavirus Made the Internet Better?" present valuable insights into our digital lives through their unique rhetorical strategies. Goldsmith's informal, comedic approach champions the idea that online time can be fulfilling, advocating for a more relaxed view of productivity and leisure. On the other hand, Wortham's analytical and reflective style prompts a critical examination of the Internet's role during a challenging global event, highlighting the complexities and dualities inherent in our online interactions.

Together, these essays illustrate the multifaceted nature of the Internet in our lives—both as a source of joy, creativity, and connection and as a potential pathway to distraction, isolation, and miscommunication. By engaging with the differing rhetoric of these authors, readers can better understand the nuances of their digital existence, encouraging a more mindful approach to their online interactions.