Directions: Read the following introductory paragraphs below and highlight the lead, background information, and claim. Next, make sure the MLA heading is correct. Lastly, make sure the claim is in parallel structure---which one is stronger? Why?

John Wilson

Mrs. Beery

Persuasive Essay

6th period

January 23, 2015

Imagine you are a mother that has to deal with the fact that your child died because of a class during school. Or picture yourself as a student that has all kinds of health problems from the chemicals in your school’s pool. Many articles prove that these situations are not unlikely. In many schools around the U.S students drown and are open to catching many infections or illnesses due to safety and health hazards in public swimming pools. All around the world, more and more students are dying due to an overcrowded pool area. The risk of not being seen in time to be saved is quite scary. Public pools were linked to the spreading of warts and other contagious risks. Other recent studies have also found that the water in swimming pools can be very dangerous. Think about it; would you want someone that you know to be susceptible to all these health issues involved with pools? Swimming should not be a required class in High School because safety hazards create a dangerous environment, students are not taught how to swim, and its public use is unsanitary.

David Girbino

Mrs. Beery

English 4th Period

14 October 2014

Changing Standards: How Technology is Re-Writing Humanity

Imagine being able to hold a nearly infinite amount of knowledge and power in the palm of your hand with the means to use it on your command. This unfathomable power is already available to millions of people, and it is called technology. With the click of a few buttons one can find directions to or from anywhere in the world, talk though webcams or chat boxes with distant friends, and access music albums and books without so much as getting off the couch. But look back to the historical lessons of history’s greatest minds, the words of Voltaire, “With great power comes great responsibility.” and Edmund Burke, “The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.” Resonate forth. Research is developing each day that shows how this new temptation is changing the way the brain works. With every waking second the power of the internet and television grows, and the risk of abuse rises alongside of it. The brutal allure of power and wisdom discretely alters people’s psyche and body until they surrender, allowing technology to re-write the physical, mental and social boundaries of humanity.