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Period: 1B

Free-Response Question (Form B)

Don't type
25 E.C.

People will sit at the television screen for hours without tiring. However, if someone else were to observe the person watching TV, it would be less than entertaining. The truth that many critics refuse to acknowledge to themselves is that we are boring people. We don't want to watch others doing what we do, we watch movies to observe more interesting lives. Things we can't afford to do, things we don't have the time to do, and things we just physically are not capable of doing.

When's the evidence?

Ehrenreich stated in *The Worst Years of Our Lives*, "When you watch television, you will see people doing many things... But you will never see people *watching television*. Well, maybe for a second..."

Looking at ourselves watch TV is an excruciatingly boring task. It's true that television shows rarely view a person watching TV for a couple seconds before something else more exciting happens to transition out of that banal scene. It's not interesting to watch ourselves stare at a box that flashes images after images for a long period of time. Yet, we're doing exactly what we find boring, but instead, we call it entertainment.

How can someone call something entertainment when they, themselves, cannot withstand the idea of watching someone else do exactly what they're doing? With this in mind, Ehrenreich asks the big question, "So why do we keep on watching?"

Viewers are so willing to give up minutes, even hours, of their lives just to sit at the television screen. The events that take place on the show too entertaining to get up and leave the

comfortable position on the sofa. The commercials being the only time for someone to get up and do whatever business they have to do before they come rushing back to their comfortable position on the sofa, just in time for their show to start back up again. Not allowing oneself to miss even a second of what's currently viewing.

Critics put themselves through extreme extremities in order to get their time with their television set. They hold their bladder for a long period of time, anticipating the moment the commercials will come on for them to use the restroom. Too entertained by what's viewing to leave their seat to use the restroom for a few minutes. They speed through the roads just to make it home on time to watch their favorite shows. All for what? To watch someone else live a more thrilling life than our own?

Looking at ourselves go through extreme measures in order to watch shows on the television, do we ever view ourselves as being foolish? Never. If we get our fill of TV, no extremities seems too foolish.

We see the idea of watching someone else live their own life more entertaining than living our own. The reason why viewers enjoy so many shows on television is because they're more dramatic, more thrilling, than the average person's life. We've become so entranced in watching the exciting life of a character created for our entertainment that we've forgotten to live our own life. The thought of getting up from one's position on the couch consists of too much effort for them to actually do. Thus, we stay rooted to our seats, eyes planted on the screen, as the clock continues to tick by. Our time wasted by the images in a box.