

Should Cell Phones be Allowed at School?

OPINION & ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING



Source 1: The Cellular Scramble

Several schools have launched “bring your own technology” programs this year. These programs allow students to bring their own smart phones, electronic tablets, and other Internet-enabled devices to class. Classroom teachers are incorporating them into lessons. Using personal devices to enhance learning has many fans.

On the other hand, some schools are cracking down on cell phone use by students. One school strengthened its anti-cell phone policy for the school year. The school, which previously allowed students to use cell phones during lunch, now requires students to turn off cell phones during school hours.

Supporters of such cell phone restrictions argue that the devices distract students from learning and provide more opportunities for kids to make bad decisions.

Source 2: Smart Phones, Smart Schools

Cell phones in classrooms might be smarter than you think. Schools should allow students to carry cell phones because, if used properly, the phones can enhance learning and become valuable teaching tools. Cellphones can also keep students safe and in contact with their parents.

Most students are excited to use cell phone technology. If schools incorporate that technology into lessons, students will become more interested in their classes.

As cell phones become more like mini laptop computers, they can be very useful in the classroom. For example, students can use cell phone technology to access online books, newspaper articles, and other materials. When you focus on the positive uses of cell phone technology, the possibilities are endless.

Parents and students rely on cell phones to keep in touch in case plans change after school. An eighth grader from Yorktown Heights, N.Y., agrees. “We should be able to carry our cell phones in school because we may need to contact our parents in emergencies,” she says.

Source 3: No Cell Phones, No Problems

Cell phones can be a major distraction that disrupts student learning. Schools should ban cell phones so students can focus more on their academic education.

Students can use cell phones to chat, surf the internet, and listen to music. All those things can distract students during the school day. According to a 2010 study, 64 percent of kids with cell phones have sent texts during class. Those texts are most likely distracting kids from their studies.

Cell phones also give students opportunities to cheat by looking up answers to questions on tests and exams. Students can also text friends to seek answers to questions.

Cyberbullying is also a problem in schools today. Having cell phones at school can lead to more gossip and a quicker spreading of harmful rumors.

Writing Prompt

The readings talked about students using cell phones at school. Write an essay in which you give your opinion: Should students be allowed to use cell phones at school or should students be banned from using cell phones at school? Use information from the passages in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- read the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include

- an introduction;
- information from the passages as support; and
- a conclusion that is related to the information presented.

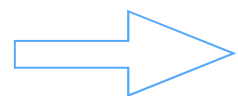
Your response should be in the form of a multiparagraph essay. Write your response in the space provided.

Planning Sheet

Use this sheet to plan what you will write. The writing on this sheet will NOT be scored.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the box, leaving a small margin on the left and right sides. The lines are intended for students to plan their writing on.

A large rectangular area containing 25 horizontal blue lines, intended for writing.



Go on

A blank sheet of white paper with a black border. The page is ruled with 20 horizontal black lines, spaced evenly down the page. The lines are parallel and extend across the width of the page, leaving a small margin at the top and bottom.