Why Cell Phones Have No Place at School

Cellphones nowadays have tremendous computing power and can perform many functions such as buying groceries, banking, video conferencing and watching films. While these machines provide limitless potential to multi-task, they also distract people from paying attention to the world around them. Teenagers, in particular, are at risk because they are constantly exposed to distractions while at school. **Cell phones should be banned from high school classrooms in order to maintain order in the classroom and to improve student performance.**

One reason why cell phones should be banned from schools is to maintain order in the classroom. In New York Public Schools, which are some of the highest performers in the country, the Mayor Michael Bloomberg ordered to maintain a cell phone ban in schools. In fact, his schools even used metal detectors to check for electronic devices. According to Graham, “the Chancellor reasonably determined that a ban on cell phone possession was necessary to maintain order in the schools” (Graham). Although not all schools are similar to New York’s public schools, the fact that one of the most successful areas academically has banned cell phones is worth examination. Moreover, maintaining order in the classroom needs to be a top priority in schools. There have been many examples of how cell phones disrupt order but very few examples of ways in which they improve student behavior.
While there are many disadvantages to teen cell phone use in terms of behavior, there are also disadvantages related to school performance. For instance, in British schools near Birmingham, London and Manchester, research demonstrates, “effects on students’ performance have been discovered…the schools which banned cell phones showed in an increase in test scores by 6.4% for 16 years old students (Richard et Beland). Therefore, these results provide strong evidence in favor of banning cell phones in school. In addition, according to a recent *Time* article, Kedmey writes, “the strongest gains occurred among underachieving and disadvantaged students” (Kedmey). Thus, the students, who need the most help, would benefit the most from a cell phone ban. This shows that banning cell phones has a great impact on students’ performance.

In conclusion, there are many reasons why cell phones should be prohibited from high school classrooms. Specifically, cell phones disrupt the learning environment. They prevent students from paying attention to the teacher. Furthermore, cell phones distract students and decrease performance particularly among low performing students. This is the most provocative evidence because it illustrates how cell phones are holding back the students who need the most help. Perhaps this is the reason that large companies like Boeing prohibit personal cell phones from their campuses. Logically, we can assume that everyone would benefit from less time multitasking on their “smart” phones.
Works Cited

