

THE WRITING PROCESS - PERSUASIVE ESSAY

Prompt: Do you think cell phones should be allowed in school? Compose an essay to persuade the school community of your opinion.

STEP 1: ANALYZE THE PROMPT

Role: myself as a student

Audience: students, teachers, parents

Format: 5-paragraph persuasive essay

Topic: cell phones in school



STEP 2: PLAN THE PAPER

Topic:

Three reasons why cell phones should be allowed in school:

Reasons:

Details:

1- students stay connected with family and friends

1- students connect with parents

2- parents keep track of kids

2- students connect with friends

2- they are a learning resource

1- can use tools (calculator, etc.)

2- can do research

3- can find educational websites

3- they encourage responsible use of technology.

1- students learn the when and and the how

2- students learn to make choices and accept consequences

3- students are treated like responsible young adults

STEP 4: COMPOSE THE FIRST DRAFT (remember to skip lines)

STEP 5: REVISE FOR

- 1) ORGANIZATION
- 2) CONTENT
- 3) WORD CHOICE
- 4) STYLE
- 5) FLUENCY/USAGE

STEP 6: WRITE THE FINAL COPY

STEP 7: EDIT FOR TYPOS, ETC.



CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

Who doesn't have a cell phone these days? The amazing thing about cell phones is that they are no longer just used for calling or texting. They have become an indispensable multi-tool wonder. Today's cell phone is cutting-edge technology at your fingertips. With this in mind, should students be permitted to use cell phones in school? I believe they should not just be *permitted* to use cell phones, they should be *required* to use them. Cell phones don't just allow students to stay connected with family and friends, they are also an excellent learning resource, and they encourage the responsible use of technology.

To begin with, cell phones make it possible for students to stay in touch with family and friends. A student can call home and ask a family member to bring them a forgotten assignment or lunch money or to come pick them up if they are sick. Also, cell phones allow parents to keep track of their children's whereabouts before, during, and after school. And, of course, there's always the possibility of a student

needing to contact a parent because of a dangerous situation. Thus, having a cell phone is like having a guardian angel. Students can also connect with friends, but not just because it's a fun thing to do; my teacher asks us to text or email our friends when they are absent to let them know what's going on in class and to inform them of any homework. When used responsibly, a cell phone can be an excellent communication tool.

Also, cell phones - especially smart phones - are a fabulous learning resource. Students can use tools such as the calculator, the map finder, and the calendar. I've used my cell phone in Math and Geography and to keep track of my homework. My science teacher lets us use our smart phones to do research when we are doing group work or working on a project. For example, when we were studying ecology we did research on local jobs having to do with protecting the environment. Plus there are lots of great learning websites - including essay-writing websites - we can use to supplement the learning in class. Cell phones are a quick and easy way to incorporate technology in the

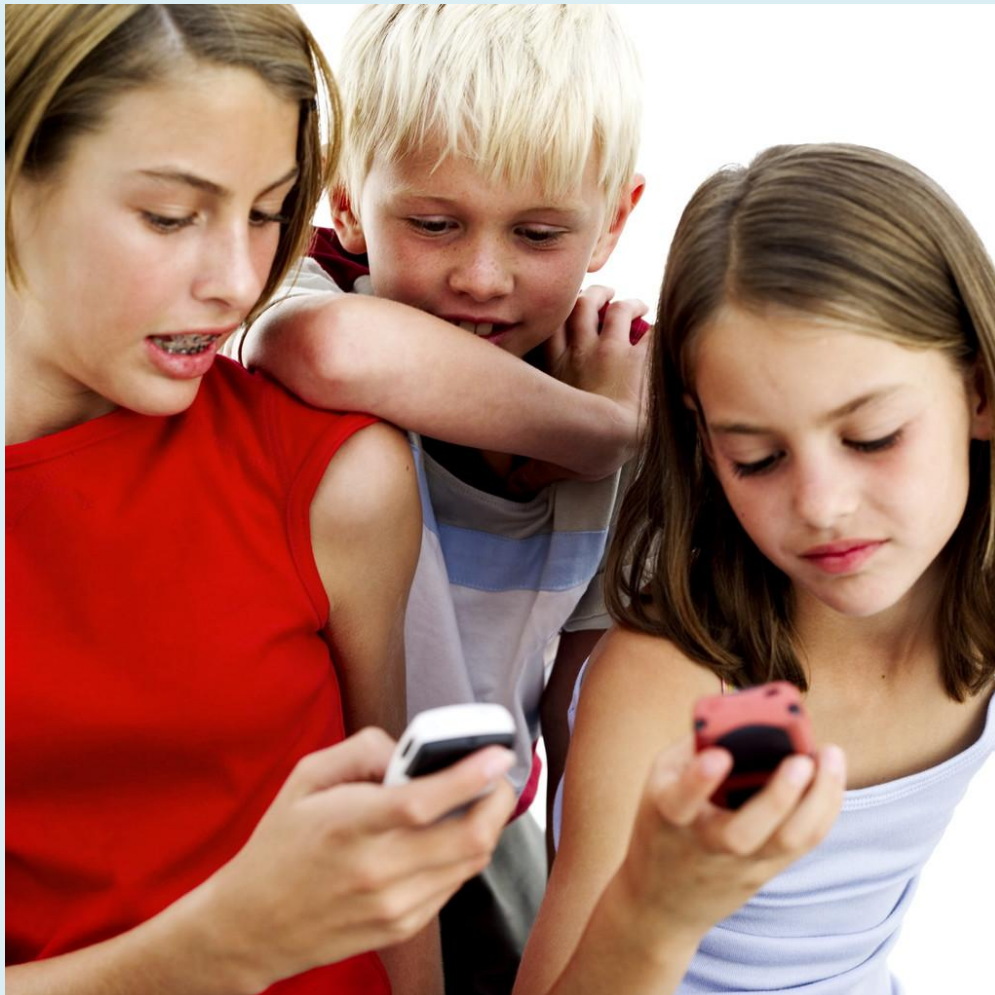
classroom.

Finally, cell phones encourage the responsible use of technology.

Students can learn when and how to use their cell phones to enhance their learning. They will become more independent in their work and more motivated to learn. Students like being allowed to make choices, and they understand consequences. If a student is texting when he/she should be paying attention to the teacher, the teacher should take the cell phone temporarily away. No big deal. Before a test, all cell phones should be placed on the teacher's desk. Again, no big deal. By allowing the use of cell phones, students will feel like they are being treated like responsible young adults, and they will appreciate that. If teachers are patient, understanding, and consistent, students will surely become responsible users of technology.

In conclusion, people who oppose the use of cell phones in school do it because of the disruptions and distractions cell phones can cause. But we must accept that we live in a world of technology and that cell phones are an important and very useful part of that world. We miss

out if we fail to take advantage of the educational power of the cell phone. All in all, cell phones improve communication, provide learning resources, and encourage appropriate use of technology. Teachers and administrators must find ways to incorporate this excellent multi-tool in our schools. As you've learned from this essay, it's really not that difficult. Let's make the most of the day and age we are living in!



Persuasive Essay Checklist

1st Paragraph:

Hook / Introduction to the Topic

Opinion Statement

2nd Paragraph:

Transition

1st Supporting Reason (followed by a period)

Three Details with Elaboration (add facts and examples to support the reason)

Closing Sentence (summarize the paragraph)

3rd Paragraph:

Transition

2nd Supporting Reason (followed by a period)

Three Details with Elaboration (add facts and examples to support the reason)

Closing Sentence (summarize the paragraph)

4th Paragraph:

Transition

3rd Supporting Reason (followed by a period)

Three Details with Elaboration (add facts and examples to support the reason)

Closing Sentence (summarize the paragraph)

5th Paragraph:

Transition

Address an Opposing Opinion

Rephrase the Opinion Statement

End with a Call to Action