



Are Cell Phones Really That Important?

By: Amanda Martin

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Technology
Grades 9-12



Introduction

Do we spend too much time on our phones? Students will evaluate how much time they spend on their devices and whether or not that's a good thing!

Learning Objectives

Students will write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1](#))

Materials Needed

- Computers/laptops
- Journals/notebooks/paper

Procedure

1. To engage student thinking, ask students the following question: *Are cell phones necessary?* Clearly, this question will most certainly get students talking! Allow time for a thorough class discussion and be prepared to challenge students on their beliefs to stretch the discussion and the students' abilities to defend their viewpoints.
2. On a piece of paper, ask students to write down about how much time they spend each day using their cell phones. (It doesn't matter what they are using their cellphones for: texting, phone calls, social media, etc.) Then, ask students to respond to the following question: *What would their day look like without their cell phones? What would they do?*
3. Then, students will be asked to write an argument for the following question: *Because we have become more and more reliant on cell phones, do you feel that they have lowered our quality of life? Why or why not?* Student responses should be in five-paragraph form with an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion. Students may use computers, laptops, or paper to create the essay.

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Evaluation

Please use the following rubric to evaluate each student's essay.

Cell Phones	4 (Excellent)	3 (Good)	2 (Okay)	1 (Needs Improvement)
The student accurately supports his/her viewpoint.				
The student provides supporting statements.				
The student provides a concluding statement that supports the claims presented on his/her viewpoint.				
The student uses correct grammar and punctuation.				