

To Cellphone or Not to Cellphone?

Smartphones are increasingly prevalent in society today. Middle and high school students in particular report to use their smartphones constantly throughout the day for various reasons: communication, entertainment, information, etc. The question has made its way to the classroom: Should students be allowed access to smartphones during class? During the school day? Experts weigh in on both sides of the argument.

YOUR TASK:

Read the article assigned to your group and present a summary the author's argument to the class. Be sure to discuss with your group members the author's approach to their argument: mostly factual, or more appealing to emotion? What references do they cite? Are they reliable?

ARTICLES:

GROUP 1: *"Even after shootings, experts warn against cellphones in schools"*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/06/01/phones-school-safety/>

GROUP 2: *"Parents pushback on cellphone bans at school"*

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/parents-pushback-on-cellphone-bans-at-school>

GROUP 3: *"Weighing the Costs and Benefits of Cellphones in Schools"*

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/22/08/weighing-costs-and-benefits-cellphones-schools>

POST-ACTIVITY REFLECTION:

After our class discussion of the authors' differing viewpoints, you will individually respond to the following reflection questions:

1. In one sentence, summarize your article's viewpoint on smartphones in the classroom. Do you personally agree or disagree with their point of view? Explain.
2. Evaluate our class discussion as a whole: name 2 valid arguments that came from each group.
3. Rank our class ability to rationally argue the question of allowing/not allowing smartphones in class on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being very unprofessional, not clear, overly emotional, etc., and 5 being perfectly clear, and civil). Explain your reasoning.