

Paper Due?
Why Suffer?
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SAMPLE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

INTRODUCTION

HOOK: interesting sentence that grabs the reader's attention.

Last month, my father was rushed to the hospital with a heart attack at 9am.

Everybody was worried that he wasn't going to live. They took him to Memorial Hospital, where he had several more heart attacks. My mom tried to call the school all morning to get in touch with me, but the phones were busy every time she tried. I was in biology dissecting frogs while my father was dying.

Background Information: who, what, when, how, where, etc

Schools should rethink the ban on cell phones since this is the major way that parents communicate with their children.

Why?

THESIS: what you want your audience to do or believe. This is what the entire essay will be about. The **MOST** important part of your essay!!!

Because ...

Supporting Point #1

Safety is the major concern of parents who want their children to be able to contact them quickly and easily should they find themselves in a perilous situation.

Evidence

As Julian Sanchez points out in his article *Safety is a Major Concern*, "At other times, parents need to contact children because of a change of plans. This happens particularly in families where both parents work, or where the parents have separated." This shows how sometimes parents need to get in touch with children to let them know that they have to go somewhere else after school.

How evidence is persuasive

Because...

Supporting Point #2

There are many situations, particularly here in California, where children might be potentially in danger and could use the phone to get help.

Evidence

For example, Jason Lee says that "If we had an earthquake or a lockdown, it would be important to contact someone beyond the school without having to go to the office. Or imagine the worse case scenario, a hostage situation, a terrorist situation, or another Columbine. In New York on 9/11, victims were able to communicate with families for the last time on their cell phones. What if they had kept to the rules and observed the ban on cell phone use on planes? We would never have known what happened on the flight.

How evidence is persuasive

Because...

Supporting
Point #3

Everyone carries a cell phone these days with him or her. Kids will still bring their phones regardless of the ban.

Joel Murano, a California high school principal estimates

Evidence

that, “70 percent of the kids in his school had phones.”

I believe cell phones are necessary

For students and think administrators should allow them under certain rules. For example,

they should be off during class time and only be used at lunch and after school. Students’

How evidence
is persuasive

phones should be confiscated if they are used during class.

I know that there are good

reasons for the cell phone ban, such as students using them to cheat on tests. Another reason is that they can be used to organize illegal activities such as fights, or truancy.

Counter-
argument:
Statement
against
your thesis
to show
understand
reasons to
oppose it

But, cheating, fighting and truancy have been going on for much longer than students have had cell phones. Kids will always find a way to communicate about these things.

Rebuttal: this is how you make your point again and make the thesis stronger

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My father is back at home now but he won’t be back at work for several more months. Since parents are so concerned about our safety, California is an active earthquake state, and almost everyone has a cell phone these days, I can’t imagine how I would feel if he had died and I wasn’t at the hospital with my family. Having a cell phone means that I can be contacted in an emergency such as this. I understand, as do my friends, that this is a privilege that can be taken away and we won’t abuse it. But the school system must trust us—otherwise how can we keep ourselves safe?

Restate your thesis and supporting points in other words

SO WHAT? → Why is your essay important to readers? Why should do/believe what your thesis says?

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