

Section 1:

#1 "The first reason why we should ban phones is that they play a significant role in the spreading of misinformation. Many teenagers with phones are addicted to them because of only one single thing: social media. In fact, a 2023 study by the National Institutes of Health reported that ninety-five percent of teenagers from thirteen to seventeen years-old use a social media app, with more than a third saying that they use it 'almost constantly.'"

Strengths: Your introduction of statistical evidence strengthens your argument. The statistic about 95% of teenagers using social media apps is compelling and relevant.

Weakness: Underdeveloped connection between statistics and conclusion. → While you've presented strong statistics about social media usage, you haven't fully explained the direct link between social media usage and misinformation consumption. This weakens your argument because readers may not automatically make this connection. You mention that "people can post anything they want," but specific examples of how misinformation spreads and affects teenagers would make your argument more convincing.

Exemplar: *Social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok allow anyone to share content without fact-checking, leading teenagers to believe false information about important topics like health and politics.*

#2 "The second reason why we should ban phones is because that they increase the risk of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is when one person, or a group of people target a person and bully them, but unlike normal bullying, it occurs online."

Strengths: Your definition of cyberbullying is clear and accessible. You've effectively highlighted the distinction between traditional bullying and cyberbullying.

Weakness: Redundant phrasing. → The phrase "because that they" is grammatically awkward and interrupts the flow of your argument. Additionally, the definition of cyberbullying, while clear, takes up space that could be used to deepen your argument with examples or consequences. Your writing would be stronger if you condensed definitions and expanded on the unique dangers of cyberbullying that make it different from traditional bullying.

Exemplar: *Phones enable cyberbullying to follow students home after school hours, making it impossible for victims to escape the constant harassment that can occur at any time of day.*

#3 "The final reason why we should ban phones is because it lowers academic results. Phones are the leading distraction at school, with ninety-seven percent of students saying that they use their phone at school."

Strengths: You've chosen a strong concluding argument that directly relates to education. The statistic about 97% of students using phones at school is striking and relevant.

Weakness: Limited discussion of causation. → While you state that phones lower academic results, you don't provide specific evidence showing this causal relationship. You mention the statistic about phone usage but don't connect it directly to academic performance with concrete examples or research. This makes your argument less persuasive than it could be.

Exemplar: *Research shows that students who frequently check their phones during class time score an average of 20% lower on exams and have difficulty retaining important concepts from their lessons.*

■ Your persuasive piece has a clear structure with a strong introduction, three main arguments, and a conclusion. However, your arguments could be more powerful with specific examples showing exactly how phones cause these problems. For instance, instead of just saying misinformation is harmful, you could describe a specific scenario where a teenager believed false information from social media. Also, try to build a stronger emotional connection with your readers by describing how cyberbullying feels for victims. Your conclusion is quite brief and could benefit from a stronger call to action. What specifically do you want readers to do after reading your piece? Consider adding a sentence like "We must urge school principals to implement strict no-phone policies to protect students from these harmful effects." Additionally, acknowledging the opposing viewpoint briefly and then refuting it would make your argument more balanced and convincing.

Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Why Phones Should Be Banned

Imagine sitting in a classroom, trying to concentrate on a lesson about the Pythagorean Theorem, when suddenly, the buzzing noise of your phone distracts you. You look around at the students surrounding you. Every single student is glued to the screen of their phone, not even looking up for a second. Such a scene may seem like a dream, but it will turn into a reality if we don't ban phones. Today, I will discuss three reasons why we should ban phones; increased spread of misinformation, increased risk of cyberbullying, and lower academic scores.

#1 The first reason why we should ban phones is that they play a significant role in the spreading of misinformation. Many teenagers with phones are addicted to them because of only one single thing: social media. In fact, a 2023 study by the National Institutes of Health reported that ninety-five percent of teenagers from thirteen to seventeen ~~years-old~~ [years-old] use a social media app, with more than a third saying that they use it 'almost constantly.' This is a very important issue, as on social media, people can post anything they want, at any time. This can quickly lead to the spread of misinformation, where people actually place false things on social media, to deceive viewers. And because of the number of teenagers that are on social media every day, you can see how this can become a problem. If teenagers are fed wrong information, then they can be poorly educated about world affairs, and this can lead them to making bad decisions in their future. Therefore, phones should definitely be banned so that students are properly equipped for the future.

#2 The second reason why we should ban phones is ~~because that they~~ [because they] increase the risk of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is when one person, or a group of people target a person and bully them, but unlike normal bullying, it occurs online. And in the 21st century, where technology is becoming increasingly popular, you can see why cases of cyberbullying are starting to rise. In fact, a 2024 study by the University of British Columbia reported that about twenty-five to thirty percent of young people admitted to taking part in cyberbullying, or experiencing it, while only twelve percent said the same for traditional bullying. Cyberbullying is extremely detrimental to a person's mental health, and can cause higher stress levels, loss of self-esteem, and emotional and physical harm. It can also dilute academic results, which is the opposite of what schools want. Because schools all want their students to achieve the best scores, we must stop cyberbullying. Overall, we must ban phones to make sure that a student's mental health is the best it can be.

#3 The final reason why we should ban phones is because ~~it~~ [they] ~~lowers~~ [lower] academic results. Phones are the leading distraction at school, with ninety-seven percent of students saying that they use their phone at school. This statistic is incredibly disturbing, as it shows us how many students are not concentrating on their studies and work. Another thing to note is that almost all of these students are using their phones in a negative way, they're not searching up stuff for research tasks at all. If students are too addicted to their phones, then eventually they will start to be careless about their studies, and only worry about social media. This can impact not only their academic results, but their future as well. They might not be able to earn enough money for their families, and considering the fact that cost of living might continue to increase, they will surely struggle financially. We need to make sure that students have the best chance at a good life in the future, and the key to that is happiness and excellent academic results. All in all, we absolutely must ban phones so that students are faced with the best situation in the future.

In conclusion, while some may still disagree, ~~this the is~~ [this is] the best choice for our young students. We must ban phones so that students have the best possible future placed in front of them, and so that they are content with their life.