



THE BODY: WRITING A PARAGRAPH

EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH (160 words; 8 sentences)

Cell phones should be banned from schools because they distract teachers from teaching. According to Armstrong Williams, author of "Classrooms Are No Place for Cell Phones," students use their cell phones during school to "send text messages during class, browse sexual content on the Internet, cheat on tests, and even coordinate drug deals on school grounds." Williams says that all of these distractions put unnecessary stress on teachers and administrators who now have to police the use of cell phones. One text message containing answers to a unit test can invalidate an entire month of instruction. One image snapped in the locker room and posted online may have life-long consequences. These actions can occur in mere seconds; requiring teachers and administrators to monitor every student every second of the day is impossible. Yet, even if it were possible, is this what we want our teachers to focus on? They should be focused on instructing students in their academic field, not monitoring cell phone use.



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Cell phones should be banned from schools because they distract teachers from teaching. According to Armstrong Williams, author of "Classrooms Are No Place for Cell Phones,"

REASON (topic sentence)
Also reinforced in last sentence.

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EVIDENCE (expert quote)



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CITATIONS

(In-text citations of source)

Introduce your source and give him/her credibility. Use phrases like:

- According to...
- A recent study from...
- [Author's Name] says...
- In her article "School Daze," Jane Doe claims...



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EXPLANATION (links the data with the reason using logical assumptions)

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EXAMPLE PARAGRAPHS

Cell phones should be banned from schools because they

TRANSITION SENTENCE OR PHRASE
(links the one reason with the next reason)

These can come at the end of the previous paragraph or at the beginning of a new paragraph.

Other phrases that can be used include:

- Also...
- In addition...
- Furthermore...
- Similarly...
- Next...
- Not only...but also...
- In the same way...

second of the day is impossible. yet, even if it were possible, is this what we want our teachers to focus on? They should be focused on instructing students in their academic field, not monitoring cell phone use.

Teachers aren't the only ones who suffer from cell phone use in class. Other students can become easily distracted when a classmate is using his or her phone. Jane Doe, a senior at Erie High