

## The Use of Electronics in School

Ideas flow through your fingertips, rapidly appearing before your eyes. Needed information appears at the touch of a button, that long math problem solved with a few clicks. Electronics helps millions of students in school every day. Who wouldn't love this golden age of ease and speed so generously provided by electronics? Unfortunately, permitting the use of electronics in school is a double-edged blade. While you and your friend are researching Global Warming for your project, that seventh grader in Algebra is using his phone to cheat on a test. In English, a student plays Angry Birds in the time allotted for an essay. While everyone can agree that electronics have a major effect on today's modern classroom, not all will agree that they are positive.

Typing is one of the benefits that comes with the use of electronics. Typing has helped speed up the process of writing papers. With that sped up, there is more time in class. With more time in class, there is more time for learning. And with more learning, can come more knowledge. Everyone I know would agree the more knowledge the better. In addition to reducing the time spent on busy work, it can be less stressful to the students. Speaking from a student's point of view, anything that helps decrease the work load is much welcome, and typing does just that.

Access to the internet has also helped students through many projects. When your text book just doesn't cover Darwin's theory of evolution, many students fall back on Google. The internet also helps a student expand his/her knowledge on the topic they are learning about. But that's not all folks, as the internet also provides an extremely convenient tool that goes by the name of e-mail. Your project can now be sent to your teacher in seconds, as long as you have

internet access. This helps students who are sick or away not fall behind. It also gives students a way to turn late work in as early as they can to their teacher. It can also be used as insurance, in the case that you left your essay at home; your teacher would get your email.

Speaking of insurance, other devices, such as flash drives, bring that and more to the table. The flash drive allows a convenient place to store all your assignments, helping you stay organized. Calculators can help on truly unnecessarily long multiplication problems, such as  $122,322,347,970,999 \times 221,379$ . Programs like Microsoft Word and PowerPoint help students turn in higher quality work and share ideas. All throughout the school day, many electronics are there to help you along, and make your life easier. But can there be too much of a good thing?

Some people believe that devices like calculators, when used often, can cause students to become lazy and not learn how to perform simple tasks such as multiplication and division as well as their peers who do not use calculators regularly. And what happens when you don't have a calculator? Many would counter this argument with the fact that their phone contains a calculator; however, a phone can run out of battery. A phone can be lost or broken. A phone can be forgotten at home. And what happens when you need multiplication, but you can't perform it, because you were too dependent on a calculator?

Electronics can also cause many problems in the form of distraction. Would you rather do that boring old math project, or play games on your computer? Some students fall to the temptation and fall behind in their work. Phones can also go off in class, providing a needless interruption too a time when students should be learning.

A serious issue also looms on the horizon of this argument, and that is cheating. While most students have good ethics and would not cheat, electronics or not, those who have stooped

to that level have been given a gift in the form of phones. Small and compact, a phone is easily hidden from view, and then used to solve answers on the test in question. In fact, phones have made cheating a simplified and much easier process, with a smaller risk of getting caught.

As a Chinese Proverb says, “Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time.” Despite all the Angry Birds, electronics are beneficial to students. Not all may be fans of the use of electronics in school, but like it or not, in this current era, electronics are an integral part of school. And it is likely to remain that way for many years to come.