

# 8. Write Your Introduction (notebook)

## *Elements:*

1. **A hook- A means of engaging your audience in the argument (Why is this important?)**
2. **The context of the argument: background, situation, people involved (What or who does this affect?)**
3. **Narrowing to your specific argument (What specifically will you be addressing? What will your argument be about (without making the claim)?)**
4. **Thesis (What are you claiming?)**
5. **Plan of Attack: 2-3 reasons that your Thesis is correct. This should be done if you wrote a strong thesis statement.**

*Teacher: Put your cell-phone away, please.*

*Student: No, I've got to take this; it's my mom.*

*Teacher: Your mom knows it is the middle of school, and this is interrupting your learning.*

*Student: It might be an emergency.*

This scene has played out repeatedly throughout the classrooms of America. Sadly, in some cases the student is not even lying; their parents are intentionally and irresponsibly calling or texting their child in the middle of school. This epidemic of cell-phone misuse is not limited to the classroom either. As drivers and community members, young people are becoming an outright menace with their lack of responsibility with cell-phones. Like the historical use of alcohol or cigarettes, kids under the age of 18 have demonstrated that they are not mature enough to own and use a cellular phone. With this in mind, the state legislatures of America need to immediately enact laws banning teens from having and using cellphones. Banning these devices will limit unnecessary distractions for students, improve driving habits, and improve the educational environment.

HOOK

Back-ground

Tran-sition

Thesis

Plan of attack

# 9. Write a Counter-Claim Paragraph

1. Counter-claim transition: “Some might claim” or “While opponents of this might say”
2. Counter-claim reason #1 (What is one of the key arguments against your claim?)
3. Counter-claim Evidence- What is a piece of evidence that supports this counter-claim reason? EXPLAIN IT FULLY
4. Refutation- How does this evidence not work or how is it in error?
5. Counter-claim reason #2 (What is one of the key arguments against your claim?)
6. Counter-claim Evidence- What is a piece of evidence that supports this counter-claim reason?
7. Refutation- How does this evidence not work or how is it in error?
8. Transition back to your argument- counter-conclusion.

***NOTE: If you use evidence to refute a counter-claim, do not use that same evidence again later in your essay.***

Because of the deep and sometimes unhealthy emotional attachment that today's youth have to their mobile devices, **this argument will be unpopular.** Bans of slavery, prostitution, alcohol use, and cigarette use were unpopular among shop owners and customers in their own times as well, but this unpopularity does not make the evidence invalid. **Some parents and students might claim that cellular phones are a vital way to stay in contact. Or, if one watches the cellular phone provider advertisements, they might claim that smart phones are a valuable learning tool.** Both of these arguments are clearly unfounded when balanced against the anecdotal data and the negative statistics associated with teen cell-phone use both in school and, more importantly, while driving. The argument for greater safety through parent/child contact is clearly not supported using statistics while the claim that cell-phones are an educational aid could not be more self-serving for the internet and cellular service providers. **Moreover, both of these claims are simply not true.**

**Example**

# 10. Write a Support Paragraph

## Elements:

1. **Main Idea**- Present your first reason why your claim is true.
2. **Clarify**- explain any difficult concepts or complex ideas presented in your main idea
3. **Verify**- Present your first piece of evidence
4. **Support**- Full explain how that evidence supports your claim/reason
5. **Verify**- Evidence #2
6. **Support**- Explain it
7. **Redirect**- this connects your main idea to your thesis- How does what you said in this paragraph make your thesis more true?

**Main Idea-** Teen driving will absolutely improve should a ban on possession and use of cellular phones among teens be enacted. Even the most stubborn parent cannot argue that phones are for safety in the face of facts. For example, 11 teens each day in this country are killed texting while driving according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Or, these same teen drivers are four times more likely to get into accidents while talking on a cell-phone or texting compared to adults. The phone is clearly not safe in these cases, and in fact, it is deadly. Also, in a full 95% of distracted driving accidents caused by teens (the number one cause of teen accidents), the teen admitted that a cell-phone was the cause of the distraction. Additionally, according to a AAA poll, 35% of teen drivers have admitted to texting while driving. In the face of these statistics, arguments about “safety” and “emergency contacts” vanish because it becomes clear that the users of these phones are in fact the real safety issue. No parent in their right mind would trade their child’s life for the minor convenience of a cell-phone text asking to be “picked up,” or inquiring when dinner will be ready. Teens with cell-phones are costing lives and costing society in the form of insurance premiums, and the legislators of this country must address this epidemic.

**Clarify**

**Verify-**

**Support-**

**Verify-**

**Support-**

**Redirect-**

**Example**

# 11. Write a Concluding Paragraph

## Elements:

1. **Review your main claim**
2. **Review the reasons (and possibly key evidence) that prove the claim**
3. **Make a call to action or call for support (or So What? Statement)**

Sexting, social networking, child pornography, cyber-bullying, lower performance in school, and distracted and reckless driving are the results of the irresponsible use of cell-phones by teenagers and children. The cellular device is clearly a powerful temptation for these young people, and this cannot be denied which is why state legislatures everywhere should take up measures to limit and ban the use and possession of these devices for those under the age of 18 Like a gun, in the hands of a trained, educated, and mature adult a cell-phone can be a powerful tool and a great convenience, but one would not hand such a dangerous item to a five-year old child. End the danger of child cell-phone use now.

**Example**