Dealing with the Distractions of Cell Phone Misuse/Use in the Classroom – A Case Example

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cell phone use has become an integral part of modern society. The increase of their power and capabilities, in addition to their decrease in cost, will likely make them even more entrenched as a viable, and even necessary, communication tool in our daily lives. Yet, like most new technologies, cell phone use has unfavorable aspects as well. The most common unfavorable aspect is the distraction their use causes to both the user and to those around him or her. These distractions occur at all levels: distractions while watching a movie in a theatre, distractions while driving, and distractions while listening to a lecture in a classroom.

This paper discusses the issue of cell phone use causing distractions in the classroom. It will address the issue from various perspectives including those of the student cell phone user, the teacher cell phone user, and the students who refrain from using their cell phones in class, as well. While other studies have been conducted to address the issue of using cell phones in the classroom, this study takes the issue a step further to discuss the particular distractions, and it collects and shares experiences from faculty members at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in how they have dealt with this issue.

Keywords: Cell phone use in classroom, distraction of cell phone use in the classroom, dealing with the distraction of cell phone use