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Grade: 6
Topic: Cell Phones in School

Do you want to fail your classes or possibly repeat a grade?! Get off your phone! Students are getting distracted with their cell phones, so security should check students' backpacks for phones and place them into secure pouches like Yondr. My dream is to be a veterinarian and that takes a lot of studying and good grades, but if I start failing due to a cell phone, then I won't be able to get my dream to come true.

First and foremost, here are some reasons why cell phones could lead to bad grades or even getting bullied. "The rationale against cellphones in schools is that excessive exposure to the devices will have a negative effect on school-aged kids – lowering grades, promoting cyberbullying and even increasing the likelihood of teenage anxiety, depression and suicide," observes a 2020 USA Today article. This connects to my claim because due to people being stuck on their phone they have a bigger chance of getting lower grades, being cyberbullied, and experiencing anxiety and depression. This proves that cell phones can really affect someone's confidence.

The Yondr pouch solution is one way we could prevent these negative consequences from happening. A 2019 Guardian article notes, "Educators are now exploring more drastic measures. This school year, more than 1,000 schools nationwide will be using Yondr, a pouch system that allows students to lock away their phones while they're in class." Yondr keeps students off their phones during class so they can focus on learning. However, Yondr pouches will not completely solve the problem. Schools also need to let security check students' backpacks to be able to find cell phones and take them away so students won't get distracted with their cell phones.

Students are failing due to cell phones because they are distracted by watching them during class. . . I think that Principals should set up a rule for no cell phones so it can prevent cell phones from even entering classrooms, so teachers can focus on teaching. Also I think that the Congress could help schools by providing money for schools to buy yondr pouches. I've heard that students are failing due to cell phones and I think that we should make a difference about that. Security should check students' backpacks for cell phones so they cannot get distracted from their studies. I say that parents should check their students for phones or check to see if their phones are off or put a limit on it not turning on until a specific time. So, I'll ask again: Do you want you or your student(s) to fail your classes or possibly repeat a grade?! If not, get off your phone!

Word Count: 447