

Both Sides of the Feed: Cell Phone Bans in Schools

Both Sides of the Feed takes the topic already living rent-free in people's heads and asks them to do something harder than having an opinion—actually research one. Each printable pulls from Infobase's Issues & Controversies database and breaks down both sides of the debate, with additional resources to dig deeper into each argument. They read, react, and figure out where they actually stand—and what they want to know next.

How It Works:

The front teases both sides of the debate—enough to understand where each argument is coming from, but not enough to make up your mind for you. Dig into the Infobase resources, then head to the Your Hot Take section to answer two questions for each side: what matters to them, and what you disagree with. The goal isn't to pick a winner—it's to get past "they're wrong" and into "here's why they think that, and here's where I push back." Then in Your Next Scroll, write down the question the debate left you with and where you want the conversation to go next.

Set Up:

Print front and back and laminate them—debates don't expire, and neither do these. Leave them out, or keep a pile on hand for anyone who has a strong opinion about everything and has never been asked to defend it.



This Month's Hot Topic:

Should schools prohibit the use of cell phones?

Both Sides of the Feed: Should Schools Ban Cell Phones?

Everyone has an opinion on this one—but have you actually looked at both sides? Read through the arguments below, dig into the Infobase resources, and figure out where you actually stand.



The Case For a Ban

Phones in classrooms aren't a privilege gone wrong—they're a problem that never should have been allowed in. Supporters argue the damage to grades, focus, and mental health speaks for itself. The fix is simple: put them away.

The Case Against a Ban

Taking phones away doesn't teach students anything—except that adults don't trust them. Opponents argue that smartphones are part of modern life, and schools that ban them are dodging the harder, more important conversation about how to actually use them well.

GET THE SCOOP

Your Brain On Your Phone Is Not Your Normal Brain

Every time you get a notification, something actually happens in your brain—and the apps know it. This piece breaks down exactly what that is, and why it's making it harder to hang out with your actual friends.

To find this story, type this URL into your search browser:
<https://bit.ly/41npyfx>

Wait, Your Teacher Can Use TikTok But You Can't?

94% of teachers are already on it—using it to plan your lessons, find experiments, and make class more interesting. So why are students the ones getting banned from it?

To find this story, type this URL into your search browser:
<https://bit.ly/4d3iWu1>

Some Kids Got Their Phones Taken Away and Actually Liked What Happened

Dallas schools banned cell phones—and students started showing up to the library on their own. Maybe your teacher is onto something....

To find this story, type this URL into your search browser:
<https://bit.ly/4bHKUZR>

YOUR HOT TAKE

Before you pick a side, sit with both of them. For each argument below, write down what you think actually matters to the people making it—and what you'd push back on.

What matters to the pro-ban side:

What matters to the anti-ban side:

Your Next Scroll

Both sides made their case, but a good debate always leaves you with more questions than answers. Don't close the tab yet! Write down the question you're still sitting with and where you think the conversation should go next.

Keep Scrolling

You've seen both sides, but there's more where that came from. Dig deeper into the debate with these additional Infobase resources.



Have Cellular Telephones Had a Positive Influence on Modern Society?

URL Link: <https://bit.ly/4t6b6EH>

New York Lifts Years-Long Ban on Cellphones in Public Schools

URL Link: <https://bit.ly/4c3zS2s>

Secretive North Korea Opens up to Cellphones

URL Link: <https://bit.ly/4bA0p5W>

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