The Positive and Negative Impact of Cell Phones on Society

by Marisa Yakel

Cell phones are convenient and have many features; however, they are becoming a deadly and dangerous piece of technology.

Photo provided by Brittany Stack.
Cell phones contain multiple features that allow people to conveniently access information and connect to conversations faster and easier. Also, Americans are constantly connected to the world by using a mobile device.

To the right is a screen shot from my iPhone 4, displaying some of the applications that are downloadable.

Photo provided by Marisa Yakel.
Features included on most cell phones today, are: web and e-mail access, navigation and global map access, digital tasks and calendars, games, music and download applications, a built-in camera, instant messaging, talking and the most popular of all, text messaging.

Photo provided by Marisa Yakel.
Mobile devices provide safety and security to people, because of the fast retrieval and direct connect. Also, parents feel a sense of relief when they know their child can pick up the phone and dial 911, in case of an emergency.

College campuses are filled with students who keep their cell phone with them at all times.

Walking alone as a teenager is dangerous, and this teenage girl demonstrates keeping her cell phone with her while traveling alone.

Photo provided by Dreamstime.
According to the American Cancer Society, a downside of cell phones, is brain cancer, related to excessive cell phone use. Brain cancer, also known as glioma or meningioma, is cancer of the central information processing center of the body.

The area colored red is the tumor.

Photo provided by Can Stock Photo Inc.
This is because cell phones emit electromagnetic radiation, called radio-frequency energy (RF) which are radio waves (American Cancer Society).

Teenagers today, allow cell phones to consume their lives, and distract them from tasks and responsibilities.

As shown in this picture, my cousin Brittany, was supposed to be babysitting our newborn cousin, and she was text messaging instead.

Photo provided by Marisa Yakel.
Talking on the phone while driving, otherwise known as distracted driving, has become one of the most dangerous events today.

Researchers today are even describing texting and driving as compatible to driving while intoxicated, because of the risks that follow (Caranddriver.com).

As shown here, my brother, Pauly, is engaging in cell phone use while driving, and is not fully focusing on the road.

Photo provided by Greta Yakel.
This picture shows how talking on the phone while driving is considered to be equal or worse than driving under the influence of alcohol. This is because taking one’s eyes off of the road for a split second can lead to a fatal and horrifying accident, which appears to be happening (Caranddriver.com.)
Text messaging has “replaced” talking. If this habit continues to present itself, less communication will be transferred verbally throughout society, resulting in the possibility of lack of interpersonal communication.

My cousin and I spend time texting, tweeting, and facebooking, instead of communicating with each other, face-to-face.
Many people today, mainly teenagers, admit that having their cell phone by their side constantly, is necessary. If the cell phone is left at home or elsewhere by mistake, the feelings of anxiety, frustration and “paranoia of missing a text message” occurs, which affect their mood. Cell phones are interfering with personal relationships.

This was a birthday celebration, but if someone received a call or text, the party would have been paused.

Photo provided by Patricia Stack.
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