

## Evaluating Editorials

### ASSIGNMENT:

Write an essay evaluating the following Editorial from an objective perspective.

- Remember that editorial writing is a style of writing in which the author provides an opinion on a topical issue.
  - Especially in today's world, publishing an editorial has become easier and easier. While established news agencies have people whom they have hired to check facts, evaluate sources, and ensure that what gets published is accurate, there are still instances where what gets published is not necessarily credible, viable, or truthful.
  - To be a skillful, informed reader, you need to learn to evaluate sources (such as editorials) from a variety of perspectives. Asking questions about ALL of the following will make you a better critical reader:
    - **The author's background/qualifications to write/speak about a topic**
      - Are they an expert on the topic?
      - Do they have professional training/experience with their topic?
    - **The relevancy and/or currency of the facts they have used to support their opinion**
      - Are they using the MOST recent facts/data to support their opinion?
    - **The author's purpose for publishing the editorial piece**
      - Is it to persuade, inform, entertain, sell, etc.?
    - **The publishing source for the editorial**
      - Are they a private company with a political or social agenda?
      - Is the editorial heavily sponsored with advertisements?
    - **The quality of the information presented**
      - Are there errors and/or typographical errors in the editorial?
    - **Whether or not the author offers perspective on the counterclaim**
      - Is there information about a perspective that opposes their own?
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## **Editorial: Cellphones in our Schools**

**By Mika Johnson**

Every teacher's worst nightmare is hearing the ominous ring of a cellphone in their classroom. Cellphones are a disaster when it comes to the classroom and everyone knows it. Students are exposed to inappropriate materials, distractions, cyberbullying, and harmful health effects when cellphones are involved in the classroom. Even though schools can limit the websites that can be viewed on their network, students can still find ways to slip through the system and view inappropriate materials. Distractions like social media and texting keep student focused on their social life instead of on lesson plans. Cyberbullying is an increasing issue that has grown with the use of cellphones and could get exponentially worse if students are allowed to use their phones in school. According to the EPA, long term exposure to wireless devices like those of cellphones can lead to harmful health effects. With all these disadvantages it's hard to see why anyone would allow cellphones into the classroom.

**Bio:** Mika Johnson is a High School English Teacher with six years of experience. She has a Master's degree in Education and has worked at Lincoln Prep High School since she started teaching. When she is not teaching Mika's favorite thing to do is travel and read crime novels.

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