Jessica Heredia

April 27, 2016

English 310

Technology is okay a phone is not?

Today was an extremely odd day, Mr. Tacapan was lecturing about Martin Luther King’s Letter to Birmingham Jail and all I could really focus on was there were so many phones out, many were in use but it just looked like everyone was sitting with their phones on their desk or in their hands. I am not sure why but it does bother me a lot, I feel it is extremely disrespectful and just a waste because students are in the class to learn, not text.

I know there are going to be students who might feel like their phone is their life, and they have a need to always be connected, but not in a classroom. Also I don’t need to really baby my students but I am not sure how to go about this. Do I just say if they want to be on their phones then they can leave the room? Should I allow students to use their phone when they are done with their assignments?

I didn’t have a phone until the end of high school and I cold only call so I never really had a need to bust it out and start texting people. I think if the students are bored then they need to ride it out or find something else to occupy themselves. Perhaps a project they can work on or just studying. As I like to think I will be an English teacher, it would be nice to have a little reading nook so students can feel free to browse and maybe learn something or enjoy a good book.

Keeping that in mind I still lean towards the no phones out in class unless the student has some kind of emergency and are expecting a call, in that case the student needs to see me before class starts. Otherwise it is just extremely rude to do that if a lesson is going on. Not only that but it would be distracting other students, and if they aren’t there to learn then they probably shouldn’t be in my classroom.

Now I am thinking more of contract students will sign that say phones are off and out of sight during class, and if they are out I will confiscate them. I think it is reasonable class time is for learning, if they want to socialize they can do it afterwards. Following that if they continue to not pay attention in class, I would hand the phone off the administration or just have the parents come pick it up. I feel that might sound drastic but that is how it was done when I was in school and it worked. I didn’t bring out my phone and the majority of others didn’t, it was great and effective.

I do feel like the students today are expecting to use their phones and really want to their friends and I understand that, but they also need to respect the classroom. Some make the argument the students can use their phone to learn and access resources; I think that is a flawed argument. If I am teaching I need to be able to see if my students will be needing to connect to the internet or need some kind of device. There should not be a need for them to use their phone.

I feel this is not a small issue, because even if one student is using their phone others may get distracted and wonder what is being done on the phone and not pay attention to the class.