

Why do some college students use their cell phones in class?

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The Corsair

Sure, they know it's against school policy, but many PJC students still use their cell phones in class.

Explains Rachael Trebesh: "I am a textaholic. I can't live without my phone."

That may be, but cell phones in class are still incredibly distracting and annoying, say many students.

"I feel they're very helpful (but) I think they're a distraction not necessary to have in class. (Offending students) have every right to get caught. I don't think it's good at all," said student Carrie Stice.

The prohibition is clearly stated in school policy: "Cellular phones and pagers will be turned off during class. Phones and pagers going

off during class time constitute a disruption to the academic environment. Violations of this policy during the mid-term or final exam will result in your exam being concluded immediately no matter how much you have finished or not."

Many teachers say cell phones disrupt the entire class.

"I think that many students don't realize the huge distraction that cell phone usage is to others, not only the ringing cell phones in class but also the texting, checking Facebook, e-mailing and things like this," said Dr. Brenda Kelly.

The main drawback is that cell phones interfere with student concentration and can lead to poor grades, say many teachers.

"Unacceptable. They can't use it. The reason is they can't concentrate on my lectures at the same

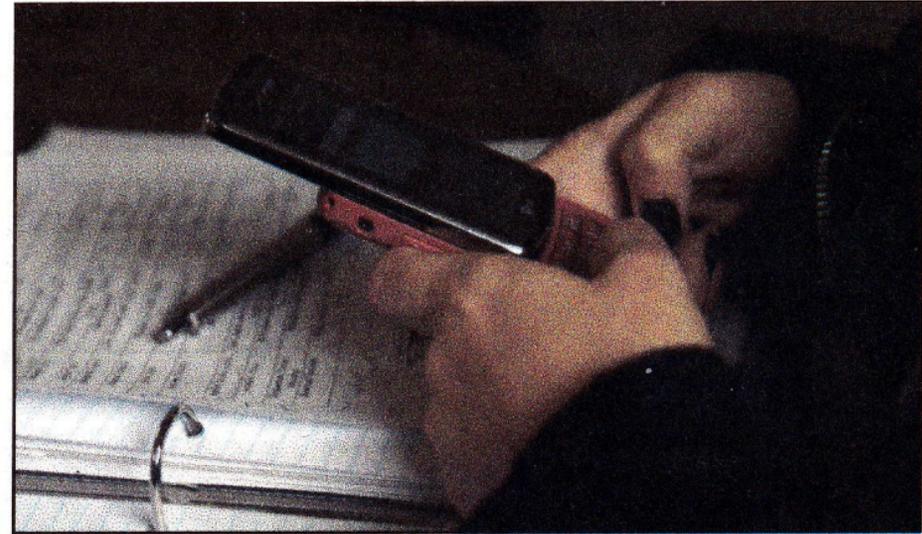
time," said PJC teacher Greg Hardin. "One warning and I ask you to leave. You are college students, I can't make you do anything, but I can ask you to leave because (you) learn as much in my class as being on the cell phone. You will be at home not disturbing other students."

But, many students feel they have good reasons to use their cell phones.

Trebesh said common courtesy means "I have to text people back."

"I am a manager for a dental clinic and I handle the insurance," said student Robert Klawitter. "My employees text me. Because I have to walk my employee through a problem they may be having, I cannot answer my phone."

In addition to the issue of distract-



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Most teachers, along with many students, agree that cell phone use in class is too distracting.

tions in class, it's too easy to cheat when cell phones are allowed, school officials said. Teachers want their students to do their own work, not someone else.

"It's too easy to cheat now; students should not be allowed to have any electronic device in sight," Kelly said.