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Grade: 5
Topic: Cellphones in School

Have you ever been distracted by something in class? Imagine you are in a classroom learning Gitangu and the topic is boring, so you take out your phone and lose focus. My name is Isalene and I am in the 5th grade at E.L. Haynes Middle School. Sometimes I want to use my phone because the topic might be boring in class. Cellphones in class create low grades and a lack of participation and engagement with other peers. A way to fix this issue is for staff members to use Yondr (a magnetic pouch used to hold cell phones). Another way is to put students' cell phones in lockers during educational periods and let them use them during non educational periods.

First, cell phones are a major distraction in the classroom. From an article called "More schools are allowing phones, so teachers use them for education": "The cellphones were a distraction," Superintendent Brian Garverick said. "And it's not just in our district, it's everywhere — you see an increase in cheating, you see an increase in texting during class." This shows that cellphones cause disengagement, low grades and lack of participation.

Second, Yondr is a solution in the classroom. From an article called "Some schools trying out magnetic pouches for locking cell phones", "Allison Silvestri is a former high school principal. She was the principal at San Lorenzo High School in California. The school started using Yondr three years ago. Then students started paying more attention in class. She said students were also talking to each other more." I think more schools should use Yondr. The same article captured Yondr's use from a student's point of view: "Edward Huang is 16 years old. He tested Yondr at his high school in California. Huang said students stopped being so distracted."

In the end I do believe that Yondr and students putting their phones away in their lockers are helpful tools. This would help students pay attention in their classes. Schools should start to use Yondr or school staff should take students' phones away and put them in their lockers.

Word Count: 350