



How would your life be different if cell phones were never invented?

By: Jessica Shaffer

5th grade teacher; M.A. in Administration, Leadership, Georgian Court University, NJ

Technology
Grades 3-5



Introduction

Students will create a writing piece describing how their lives would be different if cell phones were never invented. Based on the grade level, requirements for that grade level in writing should be addressed in this activity. Templates are provided, but can be edited to meet the student needs.

Students will research the history of telephones and cell phones and imagine how different their lives would be without them. Students will create an essay based on information read about how their lives would be affected (either negatively or positively) without the invention of the cell phone and what it has evolved into today.

Learning Objectives

- Students will use the writing process to create an essay about how their lives would be different if cell phones were not invented.

Materials Needed

- [Pre-writing graphic organizer](#)
- [Writer's checklist](#)
- Additional activities
- Chromebook/tablet/computer

Procedure

Task 1

1. Discuss the history of the telephone and cell phone. The focus of this writing will be on the cell phone, but it is important to read about the history of the telephone too.

Task 2

1. Watch videos and read articles about phones.
 - Watch [EdPuzzle video](#) (clip from Bill Nye) and answer questions about the invention of the telephone
 - Watch the [BrainPOP video](#) on telephones
 - Watch the [BrainPOP video](#) on cell phones
 - [History of Cell Phone article](#)
 - [Telephone article](#)

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Task 3

1. Have students fill in a graphic organizer to organize ideas and determine three ways their lives would be different if the cell phone was never invented. You can add helpful hints into the organizer for your specific requirements.

Task 4

1. Have students create their essay.
 - Introduction
 - 2-3 paragraphs for supporting details
 - Conclusion

Task 5

1. Teachers will conference with students as they create their writing piece. Students will be given a checklist that they must have the teacher initial when their writing has been checked. This will be done throughout the writing process for the essay.

Task 6

1. When the rough draft of the essay is completed, students should have two peers edit the essay and make the appropriate changes before handing in the revised rough draft to the teacher for a final edit.

Task 7

1. After the teacher makes final revisions and edits, students will complete the final draft of the essay and prepare for the Writer's Celebration.

Assignment:

The teacher should have two assignments/activities that correlate with the invention of the telephone/cell phone for the early finishers or for those students waiting to conference. These should count as classwork grades. The assignments are valuable because they could give students ideas for writing, but also expand their knowledge of inventors as well as the importance of phones and communication.

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Writer's Celebration/Sharing Circle:

The final product should take around two weeks to complete (depending on the length of time you spend each day). At the completion of the essays, you can have a Writer's Celebration in your classroom (such as one in Writer's Workshop). Students will share their essays with the class.

Evaluation

You should use the writing rubric that your district requires to grade the writing.

*This activity can be modified for each grade level. For grade three, you might require two to three paragraphs of writing including an introduction, body, and conclusion. For grade four, you might require four paragraphs of writing including an introduction, two supporting details, and a conclusion. Additionally, for students with learning accommodations, you can also modify the checklist to meet your needs.

*Extension: A good idea for an extension of this writing prompt is how cell phones can be addictive. This is a higher level article, but you can read portions of it to the class. There are also many Youtube videos to help with this concept. This also creates a class discussion so you can build this into your character education time. [Addicted to Your SmartPhone article.](#)