

iTooMuch

- Darby Neuss

I would estimate, based on observation, that about 70% of current Marblehead High School students have iPhones. Though this estimate may seem far-fetched to some (that is, after all, more than half of the student body!), I feel it is realistic. Just to give an example, my chemistry teacher requires us to place our cell phones on a desk at the front of the classroom every time we take a test. Out of the 20 cell phones placed on her desk, there is only one that is not an iPhone. The popularity of iPhones among young students in 2013 is astounding. But is this necessarily a good thing? For Apple, yes. But for students? The answer is debatable. While iPhones are undoubtedly convenient and helpful, the constant stream of information at one's fingertips can also be distracting.

I can recall countless occasions when I have been doing my homework, and then decided to "quickly" check my iPhone, only to wind up getting distracted for an hour or so. It might seem strange to some people... what is there to check that would waste so much time? But that is just the thing – there isn't anything to check that is absolutely critical. Let's face it: the constant checking of social media sites and apps is not a matter of life or death. We check social media (such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Vine, etc) to distract ourselves. It is almost too easy to log on to Facebook or Twitter "just for a second," and to end up scrolling down the feed for hours. The temptation to check social media, especially when bored by homework and studying, is often too strong to resist.

The iPhone is a procrastinator's dream. With a seemingly infinite number of games and apps, it is not difficult to be more focused on your phone than your schoolwork. This has been problematic for me, as I often find myself staying up late in order to finish homework that could have been done earlier had I not been playing around on my phone. What does this mean? Is it really worth having an iPhone if it means your academic life might be affected in a negative way? My answer is, yes! After all, the "procrastinator's dream" comes in handy during long car rides or layovers in the airport. Students should work on building enough self-discipline to put their phones away when they're trying to study or finish homework. After all, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and the like, can wait... But a school deadline cannot.