



Mobile Phone Vacation

Grade level: Grade 7

Return to:

NIEW Liaison _____

by (date) _____

Challenge: If you couldn't use your mobile phone for a month, what would it be like? Would there be any advantages? Write an essay comparing life with a mobile phone to life without a mobile phone. Consider how often you use your phone, who you communicate with and other ways that you use your mobile phone. Choose specific details and examples to support your topic sentence. Write, edit and revise carefully. You want to present your ideas clearly and observe the rules of grammar and spelling.

Common Core Standards: CC.1.4.7.A / CC.1.4.8.A Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information clearly. CC.1.4.7.B / CC.1.4.8.B Identify and introduce the topic clearly, including a preview of what is to follow.

Common Core Eligible Content: E07.C.1.2.3 Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. E07.C.1.2.4 Use precise language and domain vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

Notes to the teacher: This information is for teacher use and is NOT part of the contest.

Have a conversation about all the ways students use their mobile phones. Suggest that your students consider friends/younger siblings that don't have mobile phones and how life is different for them. Also discuss any ways mobile phones cause problems (getting them in trouble for using them in school, texts interfering with family meals/sleep, etc.) and ways mobile phones make life easier, safer or more fun.

Students without mobile phones: Students without mobile phones can flip this contest and tell what it would be like to have a mobile phone. What would be the advantages/disadvantages?

Limit: One entry per student, with a suggested range of 250 to 400 words.

Preparation of entries: Entries should be typed, printed, or written on an 8½ x11 inch paper. All entries must be legible.

The following information must be provided on the back of each entry: Student's name, age, grade, school, teacher, **word count** and NIEW liaison. Don't include the title in the word count.

Criteria: Content, organization, development of the idea, grammar, spelling and other conventions of language.

Awards: First-place winner will receive a check for \$30; second-place, \$20; third-place, \$10. These three winning entries will be reproduced in the Design-an-Ad supplement in the Tuesday, March 7, issue of The Republican-Herald.

Deadline: All entries must undergo preliminary judging at the school. Top entries must arrive at The Republican-Herald no later than Tues., January 10, to allow time for final judging and production work.