Cellphone Usage on NMC Students

The Amount of Time Spent on Smartphones

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Abstract

An NMC, Pacific Island, college student describes an original four-week study highlighting the usage of smartphone for students here at NMC. The student researcher wanted to find out how much time do NMC students spend on their smartphones and what they do. The student researcher put up a survey, conducted interviews with 5 students from NMC, and sent out 10 letters to experts. The student researcher was able to find that students here at NMC spend at least 5 to 6 hours on their smartphones. Most of them happen to be on social media or using their phone for entertainment. According to the collected data, several students found smartphones beneficial to their academic studies. The study is important because it illustrates the impact technology such as smartphones has on students and all over the world.

Essay #1 (Illustrative Essay)

There are dozens of topics that I could probably do, but I chose two that I would want to talk about the advantages and disadvantages of the two. This illustrative essay will assist me with what topic I should do a research on. My first topic would be about how much time do NMC students spend on their cellphones every day. I want to know what they do on their phones, whether it be socializing or watching videos. My second topic would be about how well-informed are NMC students with local or worldwide news. I want to know if our NMC students actually know what goes on around our world. This essay will illustrate the pros and cons between my two research topics.

Since we’re in the twenty-first century, many students who are at the college level own a smartphone. The main purpose for this research topic is mainly out of my curiosity. I want to know how much time NMC students spend on their cellphones and what they do. There are so many benefits of doing a research project on this topic. For example, instead of asking the students what they do on their phones, many smartphones nowadays track how much time you spend on a mobile app. This allows me to collect credible data faster than having to ask the students who could potentially lie. Another benefit would be having so many students to interview about how much time they spend on their cellphones. I want to know whether they spend most of their time on social media, video streaming services, or school related work. On the whole, this research topic would definitely do me good if I were to do it.

There are many NMC students that own cellphones, but do they actually search up local or worldwide news? Do they also read the newspaper? Similar to my first topic, this second one is also out of my curiosity. I want to know how well-informed are our NMC students with local or worldwide news? If I were to conduct a research on this topic, I would survey forty NMC students, and then schedule interviews questioning NMC students whether they are up to date with local or worldwide news. This research topic is pretty righteous because I could actually determine whether our NMC students are well-informed or not. However, there are also hindrances to the both topics I could potentially do a research on.

In consideration of my two research topics, there are also major and minor drawbacks. One of my biggest issues would be whether to believe the student or not. If I were to conduct interviews or surveys for both topics, I could get answers that are not accurate at all. There could be students that could deceive me. Another concern for me would be having to actually schedule interviews and collecting enough data before the set deadline. Nevertheless, I believe that I could actually pull this research project off.

Taking everything into account, this whole essay illustrates the major and minor disadvantages between my two research topics. Both research topics really interest me, but it is only a matter of time before I actually decide which research topic I would want to do.

College students spend a load of time with their smartphones in class. There are a number of college students at NMC who spend a load of time on their smartphones. There are dozens of students that spend loads of time on their cellphones, but how much time do they spend? This essay will propose a study looking at the cellphone usage of students here at NMC. This research is important because at our age, time management is very vital and it is essential that students here at NMC make use of their time.

Literature Review

A Google Scholar search on May 23, 2019 using the key words “…smartphones, usage, and time” found 111,000 hits. The first significant section contained articles looking at the general usage of smartphones. The second section focused on articles covering the usage of smartphones on academic performance, and how it affects your health. The articles covering the general usage of smartphones highlighted the daily usage of smartphones, and usage patterns. Literature focusing on the usage of smartphones on academic performance, and how it affects your health discusses the usage and impact of smartphones on college students. Narrowing the scope of the review to literature in the Pacific Islands, the number of published articles significantly narrowed to 3,680 hits. Interestingly, the majority of articles found focused on the impact of smartphones usage on the economy and mobile learning. One possible reason the focus on smartphone usage in these regions highlights the usage of smartphones on the economy over smartphone usage on academic performances is the number of articles that were posted online from these regions. Narrowing the topic further, the researcher did another search of the key words (adding CNMI) found only 37 published articles, but none are related to the student researcher’s topic. The academic sources the student researcher found were mostly case studies on the usage of smartphones from university students. The non-academic sources were mostly about smartphone usage as a whole. The review of literature will discuss the amount of time university students spend on their smartphones, whether it be academically beneficial, and what students do on their smartphones.

There are many college students that spend time on their smartphones and in one of my academic articles, the target population is students from different college institutions all over Bangladesh (Hasan, 2017). Another article the student researcher looked over states that people who are at least 18 to 24 years old spend more time on their smartphones than any other age group (Carson, 2018). However, there are a couple students here and there that use their smartphones for educational use. Several of them benefit academically when using a smartphone, and it really shows. Lastly, some of them do not benefit academically when using a smartphone.

The case study that was researched at Bangladesh tested the differences between attentive and inattentive students with smartphones. According to this research, the purposes of using smartphones have a positive impact on those students who are more attentive than others (Hasan, 2017.) Another case study from a different literature source the student researcher found states that students who are more familiar with smartphone applications academically benefit more than those who aren’t (Han, 2018).

Many students who spend time on their smartphones are usually on social media or entertainment purposes. One of the apps ranked at this article’s list is Facebook (Request, 2017). A lot of people spend time on social media whether it be students or adults. If not on social media, they are on YouTube or Netflix just watching. In this non-academic article in 2017, many people spend a lot of time on their smartphones. On average, people spend at least four hours more every day on their smartphones (Request, 2017).

Research Question

The student researcher has proposed a research question, “How much time do NMC students spend on their smartphones?

Methodology

College students spend a load of time with their smartphones in class. There are a number of college students at NMC who spend a load of time on their smartphones. The whole purpose of this essay is to describe the methodologies that the student researcher will be doing step-by-step to collect my primary data for my research.

The student researcher collected data through two surveys that were distributed to 38 NMC students. The first survey was a ten-question pilot survey intended to test data collection with the instructors and peers. The pilot survey contained demographic questions and to questions specific to the student’s research question and was distributed electronically. It was designed using software that included a short essay matrix and closed questions (Appendix A). The pilot survey received feedback from the instructor and 8 peers. Feedback included suggestions to fix errors and clarify survey questions (Appendix B). After revisions to the survey were made, the student researcher uploaded a new survey link for the final survey on the same shared Google Docs page four days later.

The final survey was posted May 6th, 2019 and was available for a three-week period. The student researcher is looking to collect at least 38 responses from NMC students. The student researcher has collected 20 responses as of May 14, 2019.

The student researcher has collected data from 10 experts through the letters that has been emailed to them. The letter contained a questionnaire that consisted of 4 questions such as: Do you think that it is important that schools integrate smartphone usage into a classroom environment? Do you think smartphones should be allowed during class time? How much time do you think college students spend on their smartphone? Would you suggest any ideas or information that could be beneficial for my research paper? With this questionnaire, the student researcher has collected data from 10 experts.

The student researcher has collected data from 6 interviews composed of questions that asked them about how much time they spend on their smartphones. The interviews were conducted over a two-week period. They were asked questions such as: Do you own a smartphone? How much time do you spend on your smartphone? How much time do you use your smartphone in school? What do you think about smartphone usage in college classrooms? Do you think that college students should be allowed to use their smartphones in class? The student researcher has collected data through 6 interviews.

The student researcher has collected data through an electronic survey from 38 NMC students, letters to 10 experts, and 6 interviews conducted by the student researcher. The purpose of this process essay is to portray step by step on how the student researcher has collected data over a period of time. After collecting data through the methodologies, the student researcher will analyze the data and then input it into a final research report.

Table 1: Data Collection Plan

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Method |
| April 29 to May 3 | Survey w/ 40 NMC Students |
| May 6 to May 10 | Interviews w/ 10 NMC Students |
| May 13 to May 17 | Interviews w/ 8 Friends |

Table 2: Reading, Analyzing, and Writing Schedule

|  |
| --- |
| April 29 to June 7 – Reading Analyzing, and Writing |

Analysis & Findings

The student researcher conducted a survey that consists of eight questions regarding smartphones and smartphone usage. The student researcher has also sent out ten letters to experts and conducted interviews with six NMC students.

According to the survey on Google Forms, twenty five out of twenty-five students own a cellphone (Appendix 1A). Eighteen of the twenty-five were female students and the rest were male (Appendix 2A). When asked the question, “What is your cellphone mainly used for” responses show that most of the students are on their phones for social media, and entertainment purposes (Appendix 3A). Fourteen of the twenty-five actually know how much time they spend on their phones and the rest are unsure (Appendix 4A). On average, the fourteen that said ‘Yes’ spend about six hours on their smartphones. 52% of 25 students said that smartphones should be allowed during class time because it’ll benefit them academically. The others said that it plays as a big distraction to learning (Appendix 4A).

The student researcher has emailed ten letters to experts, but none of the experts had the time to respond.

The student researcher has conducted interviews with six NMC students here at NMC. All the interviewees asked to remain anonymous. The student researcher interviewed three males and three females. All six of the interviewees were asked similar questions from the survey. However, two out of six said that smartphones should be used in class because not only it is a distraction, but school should be for school and smartphones should be used in another time. All six own cellphones with one person owning an android phone. All spend about an average of 5 hours every day on their smartphones.

After conducting this four-week research project, the student researcher found that many students here at NMC own a smartphone and find it beneficial to their academics. However, there are a couple that are against the usage of smartphone usage in school. On the other hand, the data collected also showed that technology has heavily impacted us and our way of learning and living. Students at NMC spend a lot of time on their smartphones because of social media or for entertainment purposes.

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Appendices



























