

College

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### Fleming College Scholarship Essay

The first smartphone I received was before beginning my freshman year of high school. I had bought an iPod Touch a couple years earlier, but its functionality was, of course, limited. Owning a device from which I could access the internet and internet-based applications anywhere, even without wifi, was new to me. I had been saving money for a few years at that point, and I was ready to join the rest of the world in owning a smartphone.

Now that I have had a smartphone for multiple years (I have gone through three or four different brands and models of phone), I rely heavily on it throughout my daily life. It impacts so much of what I do, in ways both positive and negative. I use it mostly for communication, through calling, texting, and social media. Contacting a friend, family member, or coworker is as easy as a few taps and swipes on the screen, and suddenly I have constructed a message or can hear the voice of the person to whom I am reaching out. The ease with which I can talk with people creates a convenience that I never would have been able to know without owning a smartphone.

My phone also takes up a vast amount of my time through gaming or watching videos on platforms like YouTube. While both these things and social media may not be inherently bad, overuse could have negative effects throughout my daily life. Focusing too extensively on frivolously using my smartphone can lead to procrastination and distraction. If I am trying to work on an assignment (even while trying to write this essay), I try to put my phone away in another room. If I have my phone with me, I will always end up picking it up and checking my social media or watching a quick YouTube

video. Even though I am particularly prone to distraction, I know that most people might find themselves sitting down and looking at the screen of the smartphone rather than getting up and doing something productive with their time. The conveniences that smartphones bring, however, still far outweigh the negatives in my opinion.

Personally, having a smartphone makes my driving experience much better than it would be without it. I would not say that it is a distraction or safety hazard for me while driving, as I am easily able to keep my attention focused on the street ahead of me. Smartphones' most useful feature that helps me most while on the road is easily the GPS functionality. I can input the address or location of anywhere I wish to travel, and it will give me directions in real-time while I am driving. This is especially useful if I get lost or need to find a gas station or restaurant while I am out and do not know the area. The phone speaks the directions to you out loud, so you do not need to take the risk of staring at it for long periods of time. With only a quick glance at it every once in a while, you can see which way you will be turning next and even your estimated time of arrival.

I also love to listen to music, especially while out on the road. If I can turn up my favorite songs to hear and sing along to while driving, my trip will be all that much better. I either queue up all of the songs I want to listen to before starting to drive, or if I am travelling farther, I simply play an entire playlist on shuffle. That way, I do not feel the need to scroll through music on my phone while I should be focusing on the road, because I already know that I will like every song that comes on!

Overall, I feel that in this day and age a smartphone is an essential part of everyday life, and I can confidently say that neither my life nor my experience behind the wheel would be the same without one.