

# Are Tweens Ready for Cell Phones?

**Intro:** Essay two makes the better argument

Whether tweens should have cell phones is a common issue for parents. In this case, Essay 2, which argues against giving kids cell phones at an early age, provides solid research and developmental reasons for waiting until kids are older. Essay 1 relies on making parents feel guilty for not providing phones.

**Body 1:** Essay 2 has better research

1. Survey said middle schoolers use phone for Internet – likely unsupervised
2. “Between 14 and 19 percent of children reported being victims of cyberbullying”
3. Cyberbullying problem; mental health issues.

Essay 2 provides better research about tweens and cell phones than Essay 1. Essay 2 cites research by Elizabeth Englander that says middle schoolers use their phone to access the Internet, which is likely unsupervised. In fact, the author notes, “between 14 and 19 percent of children reported being victims of cyberbullying.” Cyberbullying is recognized as contributing to children’s mental health issues, so giving tweens a cell phone opens them up to a potentially harmful situation.

**Body 2:** Essay 2 gives a developmental reason

1. Middle schooler not developmentally ready
2. “Children of this age are simply not mature enough to handle this technology”
3. Author is middle school teacher; knows maturity; recommends 16

The author Linda Snider, a veteran teacher of tweens, also says kids aren’t mature enough to have phones. The essay points out that kids could have access to inappropriate sites when not monitored, and

says, “Children of this age are simply not mature enough to handle this technology.” As teacher, Snider establishes her credibility and recommends children wait until 16 to get a phone.

**Body 3:** Essay 1 doesn’t provide good reasons to give tween phone.

1. Sells cell phones
2. Research isn’t on topic – no proof it’s safe
3. Emotional argument

**Conclusion:** Essay 2 is better than Essay 1. It offered more facts. Essay 1 relied on emotions and guilt to get parents into feeling like kids need cell phones.