Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluate Argument and Claims Practice**

Read the passage.

Cell Phone Citizens

Our school has banned cell phones. Students must store them in their

lockers during the day. We are allowed to use them before and after school

hours only. I think this policy is unrealistic and lacks vision. Our school

should allow students to use cell phones during the school day in appropriate

and responsible ways.

First of all, simply banning phones will not make the problem go away.

According to an article in the Marion Ledger, about 60 percent of students

still use their phones when schools ban or limit cell phone use. That’s why it

makes sense to teach kids to use cell phones responsibly, not ban them.

Cell phones can help the learning process. Many phones have Internet

access. This can be useful if a classroom has limited Internet access and

students need to research something quickly. Many phones also have cameras,

and students may remember notes on the board or class projects better if they

can review a picture of them.

Some people might say that teachers won’t be able to regulate how

students are using their phones. However, if students understand that using

their cell phones in class is a privilege and not a right, they will not take

advantage of it.

I do agree that cell phones can be distracting in the classroom if they are

used for phone calls or text messages. Ringing or vibrating phones distract

the person getting the call and other people as well. Students should turn off

phones and store them out of sight during class if they aren’t using them for

learning. However, students should be allowed to check messages or make

calls between classes. There is no difference between holding a face-to-face

conversation and a phone conversation in a crowded hallway.

Our principal, Mr. Barnard, has said that he does not want cell phones to

become “part of our school culture.” But they already are. We are students of

a digital age. Let’s lift the ban on cell phones in school so we can learn how to

become better cell phone citizens.

*Now answer the questions.*

1. What is the author’s position?

2. In the first sentence of the second paragraph, the author claims that simply banning cell phone use will not make the problem go away. Does the author provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

3. In the first sentence of the third paragraph, the author claims that cell phones can help the learning process. Does the author provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

4. In the last sentence of the fourth paragraph, the author claims that if students

understand that using their cell phones in class is a privilege and not a right, they will not take advantage of it. Does the author provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

5. What counter-argument does the author specifically address in the fifth paragraph?

6. Do you think that the author’s claims make this argument effective? Why or why not?