

We will be visiting various sites on my Course Web Page in our classes, so you should bring your laptops to each class, or share with a buddy. I use the www, as opposed to Power Point, b/c I can accomplish more of what I want to do with my electronic enhancements to the classroom experience.

*The following list was compiled by former students. Feel free to add to this list, by sending me an e-mail. **Note:** if you are distracted by another student's laptop use, privately notify me about the circumstances.*

Advantages of Banning Laptops in Class:

- Students may be better prepared for class ... they will not have access to Westlaw/Lexis/other websites during class to read from when they are called on
- Students will not be able to g-chat, read the news, check e-mail, shop online, or play games ... they will have to pay attention (or resort to day-dreaming, doodling on their notes or other "manual" distractions)
- Students may end up being more organized and prepared for class ... without laptops in the classroom, they will have to print out the handout for each class, bring it to class and handwrite notes on them.
- There may be less talking and other interruptions in the classroom (no nodding at each other when plans are electronically made, no dings when chats and e-mails come in)
- Handwriting notes in class is a better form of learning and students may retain more of what is said in the classroom ... there is sort of an auto-mode that one falls into when typing dictation that is just not possible in the hear-think-write process
- may allow students to pay closer attention to class discussion, contemplating on questions asked and answers instead of trying to take down every word been said.
- not using a laptop allows students to recognize the overriding themes of the particular class, instead of being bogged down with every minute detail of the discussion. This could help see the forest through the trees, and promote a more thorough understanding of the main topics in discussion.

Disadvantages of Banning Laptops in Class:

- the ban may negatively affect some of the students' learning styles ... for students who have not handwritten notes since college or earlier, this might be an added stress particularly during the first year of school.
- Some students do not need to listen to every word said in class and use the time to finish work for other classes - the laptop allows you to hide behind it, which will now not be an option.
- Some students type much faster than they hand-write. This may mean they do not write all the information they should have. (not an issue in my class b/c I provide all the necessary info)
- Computer notes are much easier to organize than handwritten notes. You can copy and paste and delete without any problems. A number of students use OneNote, in which they create "notebooks" for each class, and under each class can have various sections such as "briefs," "class notes," "practice problems" etc which makes things very clear cut and accessible.