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**Headphones: A Helpful or a Harmful School Tool?**

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Some students believe that headphones could increase focus and productivity in class.

For the most part, technology in school is met with backlash. People do not see its benefits and think it can be counterproductive. With the rise of the iPhone, technology has entered every aspect of life, including school. One popular use of Apple devices is listening to music. This can be done through speakers or with the use of headphones.

When it comes to allowing MP3 players such as iPods and iPhones in school, everyone has a different opinion. Some students wish their earbuds were allowed, while others believe that earbuds don’t have a place in school.

People with a pro-earbud position think that music can help people concentrate and can have other positive effects, such as calming down the listener.

Students Brandon Lyons and Dennis Rodas agreed: “As long as it’s not interrupting anybody, why can’t we [listen to our music]?”

Many students take this position, saying that as long as their education and the education of their peers is not being impeded, earbuds should be allowed in school because they allow students to listen to their own music without subjecting everyone else to listening to it. For example, is anyone’s education really being hindered if someone else listens to their music during lunch?

Many students take the other position, saying that listening to music in school shouldn’t be allowed.

“I think it’s kind of disrespectful,” freshman Abby Coyman said.

Many students listen to music not only during their downtime at school, but also while teachers teach lessons to their classes. This is not only disrespectful, but is also bad for a student’s education: they aren’t getting the full effect of the class if they are listening to music instead of the teacher.

Another argument against listening to music is that with earbuds in, students can’t hear important announcements or even fire alarms. When students cannot hear important things, the issue becomes a safety hazard, not an educational one. The solution to this problem is simple: only put one earbud in and leave the other ear without music.

There are many arguments both for and against earbuds. Currently, earbuds are banned in school, along with all other electronic devices and the accessories that accompany them. But who knows? Technology is generally rejected when it is first created. Ten years from now, earbuds may be required materials, along with textbooks and writing implements.