

Observational Project
John Findura
New Jersey City University

Part 1: Jottings

Question: How do students in a community college use technology while not in the classroom?

Location: Bergen Community College Student Center

Date: Monday, September 30, 2019

Time: 2:30pm-3:15pm



Jottings:

- 2:30pm
- 14 Students, 8 tables
- 7 male, 7 female
- 11 sitting in groups, 2 sitting alone, the 14th student joins a solo person at a table

- 4 groups of 2, 1 group of 5, 1 solo
- A mix of four top and two top tables
- 3 overhead flat screen televisions playing a loop of bus schedules, ticket numbers and which window to report to, and music videos
- Overhead speaker calls out ticket numbers and which window to report to
- 1 laptop visible, no tablets
- 9 students with visible smartphones
- Both students who are alone are viewing their phones
- Only one table of students is currently having a conversation
- Other tables are on their phones
- No one has looked at the television
- Multiple students are gathered around a single phone
- Four students have ear buds in
- A lot of traffic in – 2 new students (both female)
- One table passing around a phone
- Another laptop opened - Female
- Male student stands up to Facetime a call, leaves the section
- 2 groups of 2 students pass through, one in each pair wearing ear buds
- Female closes laptop and walks to Dunkin Donuts, leaves laptop on table
- Female sitting alone now talking on phone through earphones
- No one has looked at the television
- Female returns to laptop with coffee
- Male leaves from large group

- The group yells “text me later” to student leaving group
- Group is watching something funny on the phone that is passed around – seems like a video
- 3 more students arrive and stand at table – all female
- 2 have phones in back pocket, 1 has phone in her hand
- Overhead speaker calls out three different numbers with windows to go to – none of the students pay any attention to it
- Group of 3 female students put books down on the table and walk to Dunkin Donuts, all have phones in hand
- All 3 of them now looking at their phones while on line
- Male and female enter – sit, place both phones face down on table
- Male enters with chicken fingers and French fries – wearing ear buds – watching video on his phone
- Female puts away laptop
- Male enters, sits, opens laptop
- 2 males, 1 female enter – sit – both males take out laptop
- A male and a female leave
- Female walks through, face down in phone
- 2 females enter, sit – both open laptops
- 5 males are sitting together – 2 wearing ear buds – 3 phones visible – engaging in conversation
- Male enters with ear buds – sits, takes out phone
- Male and female enter, sit – male has ear buds in but they’re still having a conversation

- 5 people walk onto the Dunkin Donuts line – all 5 wearing ear buds
- Female walks through with phone against ear
- Male walks through wearing ear buds
- Male enters with pizza, sits – wearing ear buds
- Male walks through with ear buds
- Male with chicken fingers has not looked away from his phone since he sat – 7 minutes
- 3 females, 1 male walk through – 2 females and the male wearing ear buds
- One of the televisions blinks off – no one notices
- Female with ear buds sits at table with 2 females on laptops – takes out phone
- 3 males enter, 2 with ear buds, one with headphones
- 5 females walk through, all looking at phone – none talking to each other
- 25 students in total right now, only 8 involved in a conversation with another present person
- 2 males at table passing phone back and forth
- 5 males at one table – 4 talking to each other, 1 with head down in phone
- No one has yet looked at any of the televisions
- Male enters, holding phone
- Male and female pack up and leave
- 2 female 1 male take the table – all three phones face down on the table
- Female sitting alone staring at phone
- Male and female eating pizza at same table, each looking at their own phone – no talking
- Male with chicken fingers has finished eating, still looking at his phone

- Another male enters with chicken fingers and fries – wearing earbuds – sits – watched video on his phone
- 3 female 1 male walk through, each holding a phone
- Male walks through with ear buds
- 2 males leave
- Male walks through with headphones on, singing
- Original chicken finger male leaves
- 1 male leaves the group of 5 – the other 4 all gathered around one phone watching something
- Male and female leave
- Man enters, sits, takes out phone
- Male enters, plugs phone into power outlet – plays with water bottle – looks at phone annoyed
- Male with ear buds enters – sits alone
- 2 female 1 male leaves
- 1 female with ear buds gets on Dunkin Donuts line
- 2 male also get on Dunkin line – no phones or ear buds visible
- Female with era buds joins 2 males at table – does not remove ear buds
- Currently 16 people – all on phone or laptop except for the male charging his
- Female enters swiping on phone – sits
- Male enters with headphones (and impressive beard) – sits
- Male walks through holding phone
- Male charging phone drops empty water bottle on floor – leaves it there

- Female walks through talking on phone
- Male walks through looking at phone
- Television showing weather in Louisiana, for some reason – no one has looked the entire time I've been here
- 16 people all together – 4 female, 12 male – all of phones – 3 laptops open

Part 2: Observational notes

Today is Monday, September 30, 2020, and the time is 2:30pm. I am in the student center of Bergen Community College, a 2 year college with a population of 13,000 located in suburban Paramus, New Jersey, 15 miles west of New York City. The day itself is a little overcast and somewhat chilly. The student center is located in the Pitkin Education Building, the main building on the campus. This building is a short walk from the main parking lots and is also where buses, Ubers, and Lyfts, drop off and pick up passengers. As a whole, it is the busiest area on the campus, with the lone exception possibly being the cafeteria. The question that I chose to study is: How do students in a community college use technology while not in the classroom?

The student center is composed of four distinct sections: the first is the atrium, where I am stationed. The atrium contains a Dunkin Donuts and sitting for approximately 50 students. There is a men's and a women's restroom located here as well. The atrium has three flatscreen televisions hanging down from the ceiling. These televisions play a mix of bus schedules, announcements of ticket numbers and where those holding those tickets need to report (Registration, Bursar, etc.), and music videos from artists I am unfamiliar with.

The second section is Bergen Pizza, a pizza and sandwich location which many students utilize. The seating in this area fits perhaps 20 students. The third section is the main entrance, which is the most used entry into the school. This area has an information desk as well as the offices for the Student Government Association, the student run newspaper, a meditation room, and the Bergen County Sheriff On-Campus Headquarters. The fourth section of the student center is a wide expanse with seating for approximately 75 – 100 students, depending on the layout. This section also has a television and a charging station for electronics. While all of the

sections are busy, I chose the section with less thru-traffic where students are more likely to sit down.

I began by simply sitting at an open table near the back wall, where I has an unobstructed view of a good portion of this section of the student center. I took out my notebook and began jotting down what I was seeing, paying particular interest to technology. The first thing that I noticed was there were 14 students, seven male, seven female, split between eight tables. 11 were sitting in groups while two female students were sitting alone. As the 14th student entered, she sat at one of the tables that was occupied by a one female. They were sitting in four groups of two, one group of five, and one solo at a mix of four- and two-top tables.

Hanging from the ceiling are three flatscreen televisions that no one seems to be paying attention to. A loudspeaker system also calls out the ticket numbers and where to report to, but no one seems to pay attention to these messages either. Of the students present, there are one visible laptop, nine visible phones, and no tablets or other portable devices. Both students who are currently sitting alone are watching their phones, while only one table of students is having an active conversation. Every other student present is on their phone. At one table there are multiple students gathered around one phone and they seem to be viewing a video of some kind and laughing. Four students in this area are wearing ear buds.

At this point two female students walk in and sit down, one them opening a laptop. The group that was looking at the phone together are now passing around the phone so they can each individually view the video. One of the students in the group, a male, picks up his phone and answers it with Facetime in use. He slowly walks away from the table while having a Facetime conversation. Two groups of two students walk through the area, one in each group is wearing ear buds. I'm surprised to see how many students are wearing ear buds.

A female student closes her laptop and walks over to the Dunkin Donuts line, leaving her laptop on the table by itself. A female student near her starts a phone conversation through a pair of ear buds. No one has yet to even glance at one of the televisions or seems to have heard any of the overhead speaker announcements. The female who went to the Dunkin Donuts line returns with a cup of coffee and opens the laptop back up. I would hesitate leaving a laptop sitting alone on a table with this many people around, but no one has even looked at the table with the laptop.

While the group of four males is watching something funny on the phone that is being passed around, another male who had just joined them turns to leave and multiple members of the group call out to him to “text later.” The male gives a wave and puts ear buds in as he walks away. As he walks away, three females arrive and stand around table. I notice none of them are sitting and then realize that two of them have their phones in their back pockets. The third in their group is holding hers. Again, the overhead speaker reads off numbers and no one even bats an eye, as if they have grown so accustomed to these announcements that they no longer even register.

The group of three females that were standing around the table put their books down on the table, walk over to the Dunkin Donuts line, and all take out their phones and look at them while standing in line. None of them are speaking. A new male and female walk in, sit down at the table next to me, and pull out their phones. To my surprise, they don’t start looking at them, but instead put them face down on the table and start talking about what to get to eat. Next to them a male has sat down with a plate of chicken fingers and French fries. He is wearing ear buds and watching a video on his phone. He does not take his eyes off the phone while he eats.

One of the females sitting alone puts away her laptop while a male who has just entered sits and takes out his own laptop. Two more males and a female enter, sit, and both males take

out their laptops. Everyone on a laptop seems to be doing work – none of them seem to be watching movies or checking social media and they keep referring to text books. A female walks through the area with her face down in her phone while two more females enter, sit at a table, and take out laptops and a stack of books.

One of the tables now has five males sitting at it with two of them wearing ear buds and three phones visible, but they are indeed engaged in a conversation with all five members of the group. Next to them a male sits down by himself wearing ear buds, and takes out his phone. On the other side of me a male and female have just sat down, the male with ear buds but still having a conversation about class. Five more students enter the area, look around, and then walk to the Dunkin Donuts line. All five of them are wearing ear buds. I do not think I even own a pair of ear buds. While I'm thinking about ear buds, a female walks past me having a conversation on her phone, without ear buds. As I go to jot this down, a male walks past me from the other direction and he, of course, is wearing ear buds.

Two males walk in, one holding a slice of pizza, but both wearing ear buds. One sits at an empty table and the other leaves. I notice the male eating chicken fingers has not looked away from his phone since he took a seat, which is no less than seven minutes ago. Three females and a male walk past me, all wearing ear buds except for one female. As I write that down one of the televisions closest to me blinks out. No static, just blackness. No one notices.

A female wearing ear buds sits at the table with the two females with laptops out and takes out her phone. The two females with the laptops do not acknowledge that she has just sat down with them, nor does she acknowledge it. I find it funny that there have been no greetings and only one instance of someone remarking on someone leaving. At this point, three more

males enter, two wearing ear buds and one wearing Beats headphones. The first thing I think is that the headphones look huge, but they're no bigger than the headphones I have at home.

A group of five females then walks through the table area toward the restrooms. They are all looking at their phones and, while obviously together in a group, do not say a word to each other. Of the 25 students currently visible to me, only eight of them are involved in a conversation with another person who is present. Two males at a table who were previously talking are now just passing a phone back and forth between them. The group with five males has one of them with his head down staring intently at his phone while the other four are laughing and talking. Again, no one has acknowledged that there are televisions present or that a speaker keeps announcing ticket numbers and the window to report to. It's almost comical as it reminds me of the film "Airplane!" where the overhead announcers giving information about the "white zone is for parking" and the "yellow zone is for loading and unloading" eventually get into an argument with each other, all while no one in the terminal pays any attention.

A male enters with his phone out and has a seat while a male and female pack up their garbage and leave. One table now has two females and one male at the table and all three of them have their phones face-down on the table. A female sitting alone is staring at her phone while making uncomfortable faces, as this is the last place in the world she wants to be. Next to me the male and female had decided on pizza and are now eating it, silently, with each looking at their own phone and no acknowledgement of the other person. The male eating the chicken fingers has been finished eating for some time, but he is still fixated on his phone.

Another male with chicken fingers and fries (today's special? I'll have to check) sits down. He is, obviously, wearing ear buds and he pulls out a pop socket on his phone to stand it up to watch some type of anime. He doesn't look up at the three females and one male who walk

directly past him, almost bumping his table and definitely bumping an unoccupied chair, while each is looking at their phones. While two males get up to leave, another male with ear buds walks through our area. A male catching my eye as he is definitely swaying to music and singing along while wearing ear buds. As I try to identify the song (I can't) the original student eating chicken fingers gets up, looks around, and leaves. This is the first I've seen him remove his gaze from his phone.

The table next to me, where they were eating pizza, now has a male walk over to it, sit down, pull out his phone, fumble with a chord, and plug in the phone into an outlet. There doesn't appear to be many outlets in this area which is surprising for a building that is maybe only seven years old. He is playing with an empty water bottle and is looking at his phone, annoyed. It looks like it is totally out of power. Another male with ear buds enters and sits alone at a table. He is playing the drums with his hands on the table. Three more people join the Dunkin Donuts line, one female and two male. The female is wearing ear buds but the two males not only are not wearing ear buds, but their phones are also not visible. They may be the first two people I've seen who are not even holding a phone. After she gets her coffee, the female joins the two males at a table. She does not, however, remove the ear buds.

Of the 16 people in my field of view, all of them are on either a laptop or looking at a phone, with the lone exception of the guy next to me who is still charging his phone and seems to be getting more and more annoyed. Another female enters, has a seat, and is actively swiping on her phone. A male with Beats headphones (and a very impressive beard) sits at the table next to her, but neither even look up. The guys next to me charging his phone drops his water bottle on the floor. I wait to see if he picks it up. He doesn't. He is still annoyed. Two more students walk past me either talking on their phone or looking at it. The television is showing the weather in

Louisiana and eastern Texas for some reason, and in the last 45 minutes no one has even given a hint that they are aware that the televisions are there. As I get up to leave, I count 16 people all together, four female, 12 male, all of them either looking at their phone or one of the three laptops visible.

Part 3: Coding

<p>Today is Monday, September 30, 2020, and the time is 2:30pm. I am in the student center of Bergen Community College, a 2 year college with a population of 13,000 located in suburban Paramus, New Jersey, 15 miles west of New York City. The day itself is a little overcast and somewhat chilly. The student center is located in the Pitkin Education Building, the main building on the campus. This building is a short walk from the main parking lots and is also where buses, Ubers, and Lyfts, drop off and pick up passengers. As a whole, it is the busiest area on the campus, with the lone exception possibly being the cafeteria. The question that I chose to study is: How do students in a community college use technology while not in the classroom?</p>	<p>Ubers, and Lyfts</p>
<p>The student center is composed of four distinct sections: the first is the atrium, where I am stationed. The atrium contains a Dunkin Donuts and sitting for approximately 50 students. There is a men's and a women's restroom located here as well. The atrium has three flatscreen televisions hanging down from the ceiling. These televisions play a mix of bus schedules, announcements of ticket numbers and where those holding those tickets need to report (Registration, Bursar, etc.), and music videos from artists I am unfamiliar with.</p>	<p>three flatscreen televisions televisions bus schedules, announcements of ticket numbers and where those holding those tickets need to report (Registration, Bursar, etc.), and music</p>

<p>The second section is Bergen Pizza, a pizza and sandwich location which many students utilize. The seating in this area fits perhaps 20 students. The third section is the main entrance, which is the most used entry into the school. This area has an information desk as well as the offices for the Student Government Association, the student run newspaper, a meditation room, and the Bergen County Sheriff On-Campus Headquarters. The fourth section of the student center is a wide expanse with seating for approximately 75 – 100 students, depending on the layout. This section also has a television and a charging station for electronics. While all of the sections are busy, I chose the section with less thru-traffic where students are more likely to sit down.</p>	<p>Television charging station for electronics</p>
<p>I began by simply sitting at an open table near the back wall, where I has an unobstructed view of a good portion of this section of the student center. I took out my notebook and began jotting down what I was seeing, paying particular interest to technology. The first thing that I noticed was there were 14 students, seven male, seven female, split between eight tables. 11 were sitting in groups while two female students were sitting alone. As the 14th student entered, she sat at one of the tables that was occupied by a one female. They were sitting in four groups</p>	

<p>of two, one group of five, and one solo at a mix of four- and two-top tables.</p>	
<p>Hanging from the ceiling are three flatscreen televisions that no one seems to be paying attention to. A loudspeaker system also calls out the ticket numbers and where to report to, but no one seems to pay attention to these messages either. Of the students present, there are one visible laptop, nine visible phones, and no tablets or other portable devices. Both students who are currently sitting alone are watching their phones, while only one table of students is having an active conversation. Every other student present is on their phone. At one table there are multiple students gathered around one phone and they seem to be viewing a video of some kind and laughing. Four students in this area are wearing ear buds.</p>	<p>three flatscreen televisions</p> <p>loudspeaker system also calls out the ticket numbers and where to report to</p> <p>one visible laptop, nine visible phones, and no tablets or other portable devices</p> <p>watching their phones</p> <p>one phone</p> <p>viewing a video</p> <p>ear buds</p> <p>that no one seems to be paying attention to</p> <p>but no one seems to pay attention to these messages either</p> <p>active conversation</p>
<p>At this point two female students walk in and sit down, one them opening a laptop. The group that was looking at the phone together are now passing around the phone so they can each individually view the video. One of the students in the group, a male, picks up his phone and answers it with Facetime in use. He slowly walks away from the table while having a Facetime conversation. Two groups of two students walk through</p>	<p>Laptop</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>view the video</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>Facetime</p> <p>Facetime</p>

<p>the area, one in each group is wearing ear buds. I'm surprised to see how many students are wearing ear buds.</p> <p>A female student closes her laptop and walks over to the Dunkin Donuts line, leaving her laptop on the table by itself. A female student near her starts a phone conversation through a pair of ear buds. No one has yet to even glance at one of the televisions or seems to have heard any of the overhead speaker announcements. The female who went to the Dunkin Donuts line returns with a cup of coffee and opens the laptop back up. I would hesitate leaving a laptop sitting alone on a table with this many people around, but no one has even looked at the table with the laptop.</p>	<p>wearing ear buds</p> <p>wearing ear buds</p> <p>laptop</p> <p>laptop</p> <p>starts a phone</p> <p>ear buds</p> <p>televisions</p> <p>laptop</p> <p>laptop</p> <p>laptop</p> <p>looking</p> <p>passing</p> <p>conversation</p> <p>even glance at one</p> <p>heard any of the overhead</p> <p>looked</p>
<p>While the group of four males is watching something funny on the phone that is being passed around, another male who had just joined them turns to leave and multiple members of the group call out to him to "text later." The male gives a wave and puts ear buds in as he walks away. As he walks away, three females arrive and stand around table. I notice none of them are sitting and then realize that two of them have their phones in their</p>	<p>Phone</p> <p>"text later."</p> <p>ear buds</p> <p>phones in their back</p> <p>pockets</p> <p>holding hers</p> <p>overhead speaker</p>

<p>back pockets. The third in their group is holding hers. Again, the overhead speaker reads off numbers and no one even bats an eye, as if they have grown so accustomed to these announcements that they no longer even register.</p>	<p>watching no one even bats an eye</p>
<p>The group of three females that were standing around the table put their books down on the table, walk over to the Dunkin Donuts line, and all take out their phones and look at them while standing in line. None of them are speaking. A new male and female walk in, sit down at the table next to me, and pull out their phones. To my surprise, they don't start looking at them, but instead put them face down on the table and start talking about what to get to eat. Next to them a male has sat down with a plate of chicken fingers and French fries. He is wearing ear buds and watching a video on his phone. He does not take his eyes off the phone while he eats.</p>	<p>Take out their phones Phones Wearing ear buds Watching a video on his phone Look at them None of them are speaking Does not take his eyes off the phone</p>
<p>One of the females sitting alone puts away her laptop while a male who has just entered sits and takes out his own laptop. Two more males and a female enter, sit, and both males take out their laptops. Everyone on a laptop seems to be doing work – none of them seem to be watching movies or checking social media and they keep referring to text books. A female walks through the area with her face down in her phone while</p>	<p>Laptop Laptop Laptops Laptop Movies or checking social media In her phone Take out laptop</p>

<p>two more females enter, sit at a table, and take out laptops and a stack of books.</p>	<p>Puts away Doing work Watching Face down</p>
<p>One of the tables now has five males sitting at it with two of them wearing ear buds and three phones visible, but they are indeed engaged in a conversation with all five members of the group. Next to them a male sits down by himself wearing ear buds, and takes out his phone. On the other side of me a male and female have just sat down, the male with ear buds but still having a conversation about class. Five more students enter the area, look around, and then walk to the Dunkin Donuts line. All five of them are wearing ear buds. I do not think I even own a pair of ear buds. While I'm thinking about ear buds, a female walks past me having a conversation on her phone, without ear buds. As I go to jot this down, a male walks past me from the other direction and he, of course, is wearing ear buds.</p>	<p>Wearing ear buds Three phones Ear buds His phone Ear buds Wearing ear buds Ear buds On her phone Wearing ear buds Engaged in a conversation Conversation Conversation</p>
<p>Two males walk in, one holding a slice of pizza, but both wearing ear buds. One sits at an empty table and the other leaves. I notice the male eating chicken fingers has not looked away from his phone since he took a seat, which is no less than seven minutes ago. Three females and a male walk past me, all wearing ear buds except for one female. As I write that down one of the</p>	<p>Wearing ear buds From his phone All wearing ear buds Televisions Blinks out Not looked away</p>

<p>televisions closest to me blinks out. No static, just blackness. No one notices.</p>	<p>No one notices</p>
<p>A female wearing ear buds sits at the table with the two females with laptops out and takes out her phone. The two females with the laptops do not acknowledge that she has just sat down with them, nor does she acknowledge it. I find it funny that there have been no greetings and only one instance of someone remarking on someone leaving. At this point, three more males enter, two wearing ear buds and one wearing Beats headphones. The first thing I think is that the headphones look huge, but they're no bigger than the headphones I have at home.</p>	<p>Wearing ear buds Laptops Her phone Two wearing ear buds Wearing Beats headphones Headphones Do not acknowledge Nor does she acknowledge No greetings and only one instance of someone remarking on someone leaving</p>
<p>A group of five females then walks through the table area toward the restrooms. They are all looking at their phones and, while obviously together in a group, do not say a word to each other. Of the 25 students currently visible to me, only eight of them are involved in a conversation with another person who is present. Two males at a table who were previously talking are now just passing a phone back and forth between them. The</p>	<p>Phones Passing a phone back and forth At his phone Televisions Speaker keeps announcing Looking</p>

<p>group with five males has one of them with his head down staring intently at his phone while the other four are laughing and talking. Again, no one has acknowledged that there are televisions present or that a speaker keeps announcing ticket numbers and the window to report to. It's almost comical as it reminds me of the film "Airplane!" where the overhead announcers giving information about the "white zone is for parking" and the "yellow zone is for loading and unloading" eventually get into an argument with each other, all while no one in the terminal pays any attention.</p>	<p>Do not say a word</p> <p>Involved in conversation</p> <p>Previously talking</p> <p>Staring intently</p> <p>Laughing and talking</p> <p>Acknowledge</p>
<p>A male enters with his phone out and has a seat while a male and female pack up their garbage and leave. One table now has two females and one male at the table and all three of them have their phones face-down on the table. A female sitting alone is staring at her phone while making uncomfortable faces, as this is the last place in the world she wants to be. Next to me the male and female had decided on pizza and are now eating it, silently, with each looking at their own phone and no acknowledgement of the other person. The male eating the chicken fingers has been finished eating for some time, but he is still fixated on his phone.</p>	<p>Phone out</p> <p>Phones face-down on the table</p> <p>At her phone</p> <p>At their own phone</p> <p>On his phone</p> <p>Staring</p> <p>Silently</p> <p>Looking</p> <p>No acknowledgement</p> <p>fixated</p>
<p>Another male with chicken fingers and fries (today's special? I'll have to check) sits down. He is, obviously, wearing</p>	<p>Wearing ear buds</p> <p>Phone</p>

<p>ear buds and he pulls out a pop socket on his phone to stand it up to watch some type of anime. He doesn't look up at the three females and one male who walk directly past him, almost bumping his table and definitely bumping an unoccupied chair, while each is looking at their phones. While two males get up to leave, another male with ear buds walks through our area. A male catching my eye as he is definitely swaying to music and singing along while wearing ear buds. As I try to identify the song (I can't) the original student eating chicken fingers gets up, looks around, and leaves. This is the first I've seen him remove his gaze from his phone.</p>	<p>While each is looking at their phones</p> <p>Ear buds</p> <p>Music and singing along while wearing ear buds</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>Watch</p> <p>Doesn't look up</p> <p>Swaying</p> <p>Remove his gaze</p>
<p>The table next to me, where they were eating pizza, now has a male walk over to it, sit down, pull out his phone, fumble with a chord, and plug in the phone into an outlet. There doesn't appear to be many outlets in this area which is surprising for a building that is maybe only seven years old. He is playing with an empty water bottle and is looking at his phone, annoyed. It looks like it is totally out of power. Another male with ear buds enters and sits alone at a table. He is playing the drums with his hands on the table. Three more people join the Dunkin Donuts line, one female and two male. The female is wearing ear buds but the two males not only are not wearing ear buds, but their phones are also not visible. They may be the first two people I've seen who are</p>	<p>Pull out his phone</p> <p>Chord</p> <p>Plug n the phone into an outlet</p> <p>Looking at his phone</p> <p>Ear buds</p> <p>Ear buds</p> <p>Are not wearing ear buds</p> <p>Phones are also not visible</p> <p>A phone</p> <p>Ear buds</p> <p>Annoyed</p>

<p>not even holding a phone. After she gets her coffee, the female joins the two males at a table. She does not, however, remove the ear buds.</p>	<p>Not even holding She does not, however, remove</p>
<p>Of the 16 people in my field of view, all of them are on either a laptop or looking at a phone, with the lone exception of the guy next to me who is still charging his phone and seems to be getting more and more annoyed. Another female enters, has a seat, and is actively swiping on her phone. A male with Beats headphones (and a very impressive beard) sits at the table next to her, but neither even look up. The guys next to me charging his phone drops his water bottle on the floor. I wait to see if he picks it up. He doesn't. He is still annoyed. Two more students walk past me either talking on their phone or looking at it. The television is showing the weather in Louisiana and eastern Texas for some reason, and in the last 45 minutes no one has even given a hint that they are aware that the televisions are there. As I get up to leave, I count 16 people all together, four female, 12 male, all of them either looking at their phone or one of the three laptops visible.</p>	<p>Laptop Phone On her phone Beats headphones Talking on their phone or looking at it Televisions Phone Laptops Actively swiping No one has even given a hint that they are aware</p>

Part 4: Analysis

As a doctoral student collecting information through observation, even in an area that I have been in countless times, there were themes that I picked up that I had never noticed before. While thinking of the question “How do students in a community college use technology while not in the classroom?” I found some things there were very interesting to me. At the conclusion of my observation, and looking at the themes, I seemed to become much more aware of these themes over the rest of the week to the point that I was taking note of how many students were wearing ear buds or how many were actively on their phone.

Looking at the information that has been collected, there were numerous things that jumped out. One was the sheer number of electronic devices that students brought into the student center. Every student that I saw had some sort of device with them, from a phone to a laptop. Surprisingly, with the push of tablets such as iPads for STEM courses, I did not see one tablet, iPad or otherwise. Even though I expected to see a lot of mobile devices, it was eye opening to see that every single student had at least one, and in many instances, students were using multiple devices at the same time.

While I had expected some disconnect from social interactions based on mobile devices, I did find that students were communicating with each other, but in different ways than I am used to communicating. Many students were gathered around a phone or sharing one. The conversations for the most part focused on the videos that they were engaged in watching. I also found it interesting that many students still carried on conversations while wearing ear buds. I obviously cannot tell if they were listening to music at the same time, but I found it interesting that none of them felt the need to remove the ear buds while having a conversation. I had assumed that out of politeness they would have removed them while someone was speaking to

them, but that is not the case. They seem to be so ubiquitous that no one appeared to mind that their conversation partner was wearing them.

I was impressed by the number of students who appeared to be doing actual schoolwork, but since this study did take place on a college campus, it is not shocking. No one I witnessed was playing video games. Instead, most were watching videos, with at least one streaming a television show. The fact that there were actual televisions available and no one, over the course of 45 minutes so much as glanced at one, was fascinating. Why would they watch preprogrammed content when they could simply watch anything they wanted on their own phone, while wearing ear buds, and not have to bother anyone else? The fact that all the students effectively blocked out the constant overhead announcements was also impressive. Perhaps none of them were waiting to have their number called, but no one even glanced angrily at the speaker. I for one, wished it would just turn off.

Perhaps the most negative aspect was how many students were engrossed in their phones to the point of ignoring anyone and everyone around them. I got the impression that while some of them were definitely texting or doing something else on their phone, there were a number of them who were using their phone as a way to defuse any sort of conversation with other people. It appeared that it gave them something to do rather than just sit and stare out the window.

This yielded some very good information about how omnipresent mobile technology has become for today's students. Everyone is connected to something whether for studying, communication, or entertainment. While this is not surprising, what I found remarkable was the extent to which all of these students have accepted living in a fully connected world.