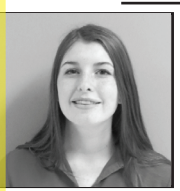




Drop the Heavy Books; Go Paperless



Opinion: Sarah Kennedy Duncan

I love real books. If I go into a bookstore you can be sure I am coming out with at least one book. My kindle is usually where I store books that I am not sure are worth having in a real physical form. If there is an argument about reading a hard copy and reading online I would be first in line to defend a physical book. With that said I think that it would be very beneficial to switch from physical textbooks to textbooks stored on e-readers. If Jackson Prep

were to make the move from books to e-readers it would be less costly, easier to store, and better for students' health.

Buying a Kindle or Nook sounds like it should be more expensive than buying the physical copy of a textbook. But in the end it would not be. The average cost for a standard textbook is eighty dollars. Multiply that by the four or five classes the average prep student takes and that starts adding up. The cheapest e-readers range from eighty to one hundred dollars

and books can be bought for low prices and many textbooks are now offered for free on E-readers. E-readers have a fairly long lifespan and so one device could last a student through their senior high years. Instead of paying close to four hundred dollars for books students could pay one hundred for four years of textbooks. Even better for the school, many of these devices can be gotten at a discounted price for educational purposes.

The big issue I have with our physical textbooks is their size. If you do not want to make multiple trips to your locker and put more than one of these giants in your bag then your back pays the price. I know that my default position is slumped



over because I am used to having that weight on my back. You know you have a problem when your dad winces upon picking up your book bag. All this weight can actually damage students' backs permanently. Some students resort to buying a second set of books so they do not have to carry their books home at night. This would not

be a problem with an E-reader. Most of these devices do not even weigh a pound and can be carried in your pocket. At the very least we wouldn't have to worry about bringing the wrong book to class. Some classes have already moved to online textbooks and it has worked well so far. Particularly in the science classes students and classes that use webassign, links have been provided to online versions of the books.

It is much more of a hassle to carry half our weight on our backs then it would be to use the online or E-reader versions of the books.

Black Friday Takes the 'Thanks' out of Thanksgiving



Opinion: Ian Payne

Thanksgiving, a time of year dedicated to being thankful for what we have. A time to be spent with your loved ones to reflect on what is really important in life. Your family gathers around the table to have a wholesome meal. You go to sleep full of food and happy for this chance for everyone to be together.

In the morning, you wake up absurdly early to make your way to the nearest Wal-Mart. There, you wait in line in the

freezing cold until the time comes for where you fight in death match against a veritable army of security guards and sleep-deprived moms. The sight of foaming mouths and desperate eyes makes even the most hardened war veteran shudder. Nevertheless, you fight for the desperate hope to be one of the first people inside. Why do you suffer through these trials? For the mere opportunity to get the Playstation 4 at a cheaper price so that you can satisfy that Capitalistic voices in your

head telling you that you need more stuff.

This little occasion is known as Black Friday. For those who are unaware, on the day after Thanksgiving (and more recently on Thanksgiving day), stores drop their prices to their lowest point all year long. Hoping to take advantage of this opportunity, people line up in hordes outside of the store to wait for the doors to open. When the doors finally open, people flood into the stores, fighting each other for the last toy still on the shelf. It's no hyperbole to say that the whole area becomes a war zone. You could switch channels from the riots happening in Ferguson, Missouri to Black Friday cov-

erage and notice no real difference; the only thing separating the two is a highly controversial race discussion. People don't know what true struggle unless they've grown up on the mean streets of aisle 13.

The fighting can become so crazy, that people actually get killed in the Black Friday rushes. It's sadly ironic that such a consumerist, greed-filled frenzy happens on the day after a holiday that focuses on being thankful for the things that you have. But it appears that being thankful isn't exactly marketable in the United States, so it is nice of businesses to wait until it is over so they can proceed to monetize the ever-loving heck out of Christmas.

Black Friday not only insults the very ideas of Thanksgiving and Christmas, but only serves as a reminder to how much people care about having things.



All opinion pieces are the views of the author, and the author only, with the exception of the staff editorials, which are unsigned and reflect the consensus view of the students in the *Sentry* class.