

Decoding the distractions that hinder homework completion

 screenagersmovie.com/tech-talk-tuesdays/decoding-distractions-to-complete-homework

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Last week I was sitting in a cafe working and at the table next to me were three tween girls. Two were 12 and one, a little sister, was 10. One of the 12-year-olds had a smartphone. We chatted a bit and soon I was sitting with them at their table as we discussed lots of things about social media. I asked the other 12-year-old if she had a smartphone and she said yes but her mom had taken it away for the time being. She soon confessed to me that she had lots of workarounds without her phone, such as using SnapChat and Instagram on her iPad. This got me thinking that it was time to get clear about what can be used on what devices and to share with you today.

Establishing clear rules around screen time is, of course, the first step. Yet managing the limits often zaps our energy and results in power struggles, arguments, and grumpy kids. Another problem is that while the kids may have put their phones away or turned off the Xbox, they can turn on their tablet, Chromebook or MacBook to do “homework” and continue using social media apps and games. I have broken down what popular apps and games work on which devices, so you can be better prepared to stop workarounds.

	SnapChat	Instagram (IG)	Messaging	Fortnite
Android, iPod and iPhone	All functions are available. They can send messages, get messages, take pictures, see stories.	All functions of IG are available. They can comment, scroll, and send messages.	Yes, of course, available on the phone.	Most functions are available on most phones. Fortnite DOES NOT support: iPhone 5S, 6, 6 Plus.
iPad and Tablet	Snapchat can be downloaded onto an iPad or tablet and used the same way as on the phone. They can send messages, get messages, take pictures, see stories. All functions available.	Instagram can be downloaded from the Google Play or App store onto a tablet and used the same as on a phone. They can comment, scroll, and send messages. All functions of IG are available.	If your child's phone is off but they are signed into their iCloud or Google accounts, they will be able to text on their tablets with the messaging app.	Most functions are available on most tablets. Fortnite is not accessible via Mini 2, Mini 3, iPod Touch.
MacBook and Chromebook	Snapchat does not easily work on a MacBook or Chromebook. An Android emulator called Bluestacks needs to be installed for the app to work on these devices. Apple did announce at its Worldwide Developers Conference last June that apps including Snapchat will be added to the Mac App Store in the coming year.	You can download the Instagram app directly to your Mac or PC from the Mac or Google Play stores. The app will ask for access to your camera and will work very similarly to the app on your phone or tablet. From Instagram.com, you can normally scroll through your feeds and access the latest posts, but there's no option for you to upload photos or watch stories, as well as send & receive direct messages. Flume is an app for the Mac that will give you the full Instagram experience on your computer.	If they are signed into their iCloud or Google accounts, they will be able to send and receive texts on computers.	Fully available on MacBook and Chromebook.

