MSTI 331: Classroom Computing
Module 2: Technology Integrated Classrooms
Blogging, Social Networking, and Smart phones in the Classroom
Smartphones are a technology that has taken over the cell phone industry quickly. To have the world at the tip of your fingers is something most people cannot seem to pass up. Smartphones such as Blackberrys, iphones, and Androids are some of the most common phones in this day and age.

A smartphone has all of the functions of a regular cell phone but has many of the capabilities of a computer. Smartphones are equipped with cameras, internet, microphones, word processing software, navigations, and music. A smartphone is connected to a wireless network such as sprint, Verizon, or AT&T. Once you have paid for your service through the said company you then must pay for the data charges. These charges range from $15 to $30. Therefore, the cost of a smartphone is the price of the phone, about $500, your monthly service charge which can range anywhere from $30 to $100, and finally the data fee of $15 to $30 a month. The data fee is incorporated into your monthly charges. There are cases where you could get the phone discounted or free such as an upgrade through your carrier or a secondhand market such as ebay or amazon. Smartphones have been on the market for about 10 years but have only become so popular in the last 5 years.

There are many ways I would use smartphones in the classroom. One way the teacher could have the students use smartphones is by asking the students a series of questions and tell them to use their phones to figure it out and report back to the teacher. This would require the students to use the internet to google the answer and then find a way to send the information or answer to me. They could choose to do this in a few ways. The students could email the teachers account or they could send a text message to the teacher’s phone. There are many other functions of the phone that the students could use to gather information. For instance, if
you were to ask the student how long it would take to get from one location to another they could use the navigation to find the answer to the question and then report back either through email or text message. The students could also document an outside activity with the camera or they could take a video.

The use of smartphones in the classroom can be related to step 3: logistics – Preparing the classroom environment – arranging resources in the Roblyer and Edwards reading (Roblyer and Edwards pg. 41). There are many cases when a teacher cannot get their class to a computer lab or there are not enough computers for the students to do a project as a class. If the school could have a set of smartphones for the students to use then they would all be able to work on assignments together and not have to leave their classroom. It also related to the other checkpoint as to whether or not other software, media, and other resources will be needed. It is easy to email or text message to teachers phone which eliminates the other resources such as printers (Roblyer and Edwards 41-42).

There are many ways smartphones could be used in the classroom. They are a growing technology that are becoming easier to access. I can see many schools embracing a piece of technology like this and using it to benefit their students.