

**TAKE
A SIDE**

Debate

Directions: Read the article. Then complete the chart on the next page.



Is It Fair to Ban Fidget Spinners?

Some say they help kids stay calm. Others insist they are a big distraction. What do you think? **BY KARA CORRIDAN**

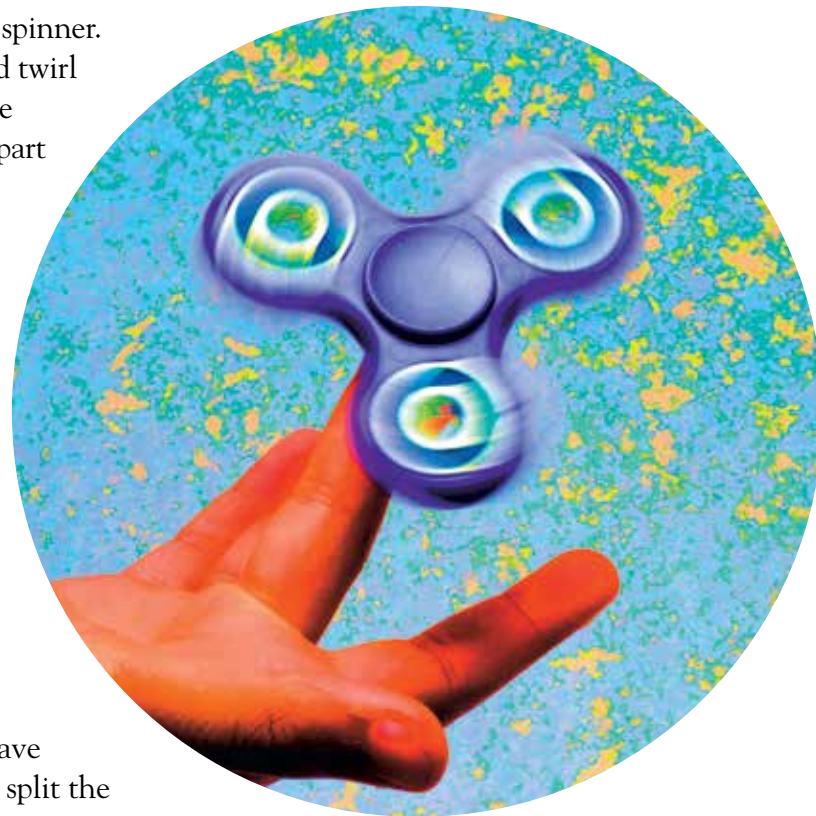
Ben loved his bright-blue fidget spinner. He'd hold it under his desk and twirl away. One day, during math, he realized that he could take it apart and put it back together. He was clicking the final piece into place when his teacher came up to him. "Ben, I don't mind you using your fidget spinner," she said. "But if it's becoming a distraction, I have to take it away." A few days later, his principal banned the toys from the school.

Fidget spinners aren't new; an early version of the gadget was invented in 1993. But it wasn't until last spring that it seemed like every kid had one. And the craze isn't going away. There's even going to be a world championship in New York City in September. It will have categories like longest spin. Winners will split the \$10,000 grand prize.

But not everyone is wild about the spinners. In fact, many schools are banning them. But is that fair?

Let Them Spin!

Some experts say that spinners can help calm kids who have trouble concentrating in school. "Sometimes kids focus better when they're able



to move," says psychologist Eileen Kennedy-Moore. The idea is that twirling the gadget helps kids direct their extra energy, making it easier for them to pay attention to what they're learning.

Because spinners don't make a lot of noise, they shouldn't distract the people around you. That makes them better for the classroom than other popular fads. (Remember bottle flipping?)

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Some teachers have even started using them to teach lessons on science and math.

Plus, fidget spinners are not expensive: Many cost around \$5. This means that most kids can have one—they don't have to feel left out because they can't afford a spinner.

Keep Them at Home!

Even though some experts believe spinners help kids who have trouble paying attention, there's no proof to support this claim. "Fidget spinners have absolutely no scientific studies behind them," explains psychologist David Anderson. "They're a toy, not a treatment."

And fidget spinners may not be loud, but they

can disrupt classrooms in other ways. Some come with blinking lights. Who can ignore that? "They're just too cool," says psychologist Lauren Knickerbocker. "They become more of an attention-grabber than a helpful tool."

Spinners can cause more serious problems in the classroom too. Because they're so easy to get, many kids have several spinners that they trade and sell at school—which can lead to nasty fights over the toys. Worse, fidget spinners can be dangerous. Some kids have gotten badly hurt while trying to perform spinner-tossing tricks.

So far this year, Ben has come up with one way to stop fidgeting in class: He clicks his pen. It's enough to make his teacher's head spin! ■

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is it fair to ban fidget spinners in school?

Go back to the article and find information to support each side. Write the information on the lines below.

YES They're distracting!

1 _____

 2 _____

 3 _____

NO Kids need to spin!

1 _____

 2 _____

 3 _____

Study the points on both sides of the argument—and think about your own opinion. State your opinion in one sentence below. It can become the thesis statement for an opinion essay on this topic.

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