Banning Laptops from Classrooms

There are two reasons to ban laptops from classrooms. The first is obvious: many students engage in other activities on their computers rather than pay attention in class.

But there is a second reason. Recent academic literature has demonstrated that even the proper use of laptops does not further student learning, but lessens student engagement with classroom participation and detracts from students' ability to absorb material during class. Moreover, while students using laptops may take more extensive notes, the ability to consult such extensive notes does not compensate for students' lessened classroom participation as they devote more attention to the taking of those notes nor do they engage in classroom exchanges as frequently, thus depriving the rest of the class of their potential contribution.

I have included several links below which go to both of these points.

Academic Research

In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning
Carrie B. Fried
http://faculty.washington.edu/dechter/classes/Soc352/Study%20Tools/Fried_In%20Class%20Laptop%20Use%20on%20Learning_Comp&Ed_08.pdf

Evidence against Laptop Use (Summary of Academic Research)
http://www.stanford.edu/class/linguist156/laptops.pdf

Students Using Laptops in Class Do Worse on Tests (Additional Studies)
http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/education/2009/march/Students-Using-Laptops-in-Class-Do-Worse-on-Tests.html

Newspaper Articles

Laptops vs. Learning (by Georgetown Law Professor David Cole)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/06/AR2007040601544.html

More professors ban laptops in class (also focusing on law schools)
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12609580/

Wide Web of diversions gets laptops evicted from lecture halls
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/08/AR2010030804915_pf.html

The Blackboard versus the Keyboard: Why more colleges are banning laptops in the classroom.
http://www.thebigmoney.com/articles/diploma-mill/2010/04/20/blackboard-versus-keyboard?page=full

Why the University of Chicago Law School Cut off WiFi
http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/04/18/laptops