

Student Sample A

Grade 7 Argument Writing Performance Task: Social Media

Should Social Media Place Greater Limitations on Free Speech?

Social media is a public, free online source that is and should be safe for everyone. It is meant for people to connect and share things they do in everyday lives. It is not a place where individuals should feel threatened or embarrassed in any way. That is why we should put greater limits on online free speech.

There are many reasons why social media should place greater limits on free speech. One reason is so that people don't get threatened or bullied. This is very important because cyberbullying happens all the time without being noticed, or fixed. Lots of bystanders don't do anything to help so that is why there has to be more strict rules on this. Even though there are free speech rules, they should still place some limits on what can be said.

An example of this is in source 3, Do Students Still have Free Speech in School? In paragraph 4, they said, "in Kansas, a high school class president was suspended for a twitter post making fun of his school's football team." I believe that they did the right thing to suspend a student here because even if it wasn't that mean of a comment, some students might have felt threatened or harassed. Even little situations like this one need to be taken care of so it doesn't become a bad habit that students do. I believe that parents also have a big part in this because they have the right to take a device away from a student if they have to. Students have to understand the severity of this because they can get in a lot of trouble even if it isn't meant to harm anyone.

Another example of why social media should place greater limits on free speech is in source #4, Facebook Policy. In paragraph 5, they talk about bullying and harassment. They say that they do allow people to speak freely on matters and people of public interest, but they remove content that appears to purposefully target private individuals with the intention of degrading or shaming them. I completely agree with this policy because they are showing that they take these matters very seriously and do not tolerate inappropriate behavior. Another reason is because if people are getting

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degraded or shamed, that is not ok at all. The reason all of this should be taken so seriously is because even if you don't mean to hurt someone's feelings, people don't know that so you might get in a lot of trouble.

There are also some potential counterarguments for this claim. In source #2, they say that social media has worn away young people's privacy because of free speech. In paragraph 4, they said that "In 2-12, a Minnesota student wrote a Facebook post saying that the hall monitor was "meant" to her. She was forced to turn over her Facebook password to school administrators with a sheriff's deputy present." I think this was taking it was too far. First of all, saying that someone was mean isn't even that bad of a comment and the fact that she had to turn over her account with a police officer present is just unacceptable. Why would the teachers even bother to look at students private social media account? I would feel kind of creeped out if this would have happened to me. That is why there should be limits to how far you can go. People should be strict to a certain point but in this situation it was nothing serious and it shouldn't have gone this far in the first place.

As you can see, there are many reasons why social media should place greater limits on free speech. It is very important that everyone takes this seriously especially for their own good. Over the recent years. Many students have gotten in trouble or even suspended due to social media activity. The reason this should be taken so seriously is because if we don't do anything about it now, it will begin to happen even more often without being noticed which will start to ruin young people's lives. That is why we should put greater limits on online free speech.