

Censorship

Position One: Let Him Review the Editorials

As the editor of your school newspaper, you recently wrote an editorial for the paper that criticized the school administration because of the way they enforced the disciplinary policy. The assistant principal of the school decided that your editorial undermined his authority and has asked you to submit all subsequent editorials for review before the paper is printed.

Should you agree to submit your editorials to the assistant principal?

The assistant principal has every right to approve the editorials published in the paper. The right to a free press guaranteed by the Bill of Rights doesn't necessarily apply to a high school newspaper, since our paper is a training experience and we are dependent on adults to make it possible. Without them we wouldn't survive. Besides, all our funding comes from the school budget.

The purpose of a high school education is to learn from the adults around us who are our teachers. We have a responsibility to live up to their expectations. To ignore what they say doesn't make any sense.

Position Two: Publish or Perish

As the editor of your school newspaper, you recently wrote an editorial for the paper that criticized the school administration because of the way they enforced the disciplinary policy. The assistant principal of the school decided that your editorial undermined his authority and has asked you to submit all subsequent editorials for review before the paper is printed.

Should you agree to submit your editorials to the assistant principal?

The first amendment gives us the right to publish without interference or censorship. It does not make any difference that we are a school newspaper. We work on this paper to learn how to write and create a quality product just like a city paper. Having the freedom to publish what we think is right is the main purpose of a newspaper. Taking away that freedom makes us a propaganda mouthpiece for the school administration.

The purpose of a high school education is to learn how to think for ourselves. Censoring our paper is the wrong way to do that.