(Persuasive)

Children should have the right to veto their parents’ social media posts about them.

Ladies, gentlemen and esteemed guests,

Imagine spotting one of your most embarrassing childhood immortalised on a social media page, visible to future jobs, romantic interest, and even your own children. Now, picture that specific digital footprint shadowing you wherever you go and whatever you do. You may not know, but this is what children feel in reality in the age of ‘sharenting’.

I stand here before you today to argue that children must have the right to veto their parents’ social media posts about them. Many children have not been asked by their parents who post funny videos about them without their permission. This isn’t about posting your child’s photos to make you feel better, when only the children feel left out. I will further explain my points in the advancing arguments.

First, we need to consider how this post will affect younger kids when they grow up. Will they get bullied, or rejected by jobs? Parents usually post before they think, which is extremely inconsiderate because of how others will look at their children. They may even start avoiding talking to parents who expose their children.

On the other hand, if children have the right to veto, they can learn important life skills and terrible consequences. Children can learn to protect themself from the online world and this can be achieved by asking for their permission and stop posting photos that expose them.

Now, I know what you’re thinking, they’re just kids! They shouldn’t decide what to do. But that’s the think, because they’re just kids, which is why they need protection. And it’s the duty of the parent to protect their children. And parents cannot protect their children if they continuously send funny pictures of their children.

To all the people out there, I say this: you have the power to control what you do with a photo. Whether you post it on social media and expose your child, or you keep them safe from the online world, it’s all up to you and what decision you make about it, but remember, every move you do will affect your child greatly.

Let us not wait until it’s too late. Let's give our children the power over what they do with their digital narratives. Because when it comes to the peak, their narrative should be theirs to tell.

Thank you.

(Narrative)

Father

(Point 2) ⁠As Marcus opened the old leather-bound journal, he was startled to see his name scribbled across the first page in a handwriting that wasn’t his own. The pages were crumpled with a tinge of yellow nibbling the edges. With each ragged page he turned, he was only met by blankness, as if someone or something had concealed it from the world. He flipped back to the opening page, his heart skipping beat. He knew that hand writing. If only he could remember. Think Marcus, think! Arrghh! Marcus slammed the book against the oak table, his ink pen clattering onto the dark brown floor. But he didn’t care, all that mattered was that he remembered. Marcus scraped the chair backwards and exited the room, thumping his feet as he trudged up the stairs into his own room.

He slumped onto his comforting, velvet bed and buried his head into the pillow. Marcus let out a scream of frustration escape his dried lips. For a moment, the atmosphere around Marcus was dead silent, then shrivelled up and influxed its memories of the past into his head. That’s it! He now remembered him. He raced down the wooden stairs and sprinted into the room. He picked up his pen and began scribbling the following words. *Hello father, how are you?* A swift reply slithered onto the page. *Hello Marcus. You’ve finally replied. I have been waiting for you for a long time.* Marcus wrote, *What have you been trying to tell me this whole time?* His father laughed, only if he could laugh, and scribbled. *If only I could see the time, but assuming that your writing is wobbly, I’ll tell you another time. Go back into bed and relax for now, no stress kiddo.* And with that, the ink faded and seeped into the page.

Marcus came back to the journal after a fitful sleep. He slumped into the chair that beckoned him to do so and he turned to the first page. And so he started writing. *Hi father, it’s me again.* And his father replied, *Time passes so quickly, doesn’t it? Anyways, I’ll tell you now, listen carefully. It was a rainy morning, the droplets thumping onto the rooftop, the gales tested the strength of the trees. Me and your mother were out going to the bank. It was extremely dangerous on this type of day. Weather reports were flooding the television of a potential cyclone rampaging our town. We needed to pay the bank desperately, and this was our final chance. We took the risk and made a run for it. But that was when all Hades went out. Our hope was dashed when the cyclone grabbed us right off the ground and threw us in the air, flinging us back down to the ground where our bodies didn’t twitch a single millimetre. With that, you went to live with your grandparents, where we laid, we turned into a journal which I am engraving the words in. That's what I have to tell you.*

Marcus dropped the book, fear and frustration and shock pulsated through him. His skin lit up in goosebumps as he shook in trepidation. He let the tears roll down his cheek, a scar that he would never forget.