

## Scholarly Writing Week 7:

Imagine you are addressing a panel of parents and social media executives. Write a persuasive speech arguing for children's right to veto their parents' social media posts about them. Use at least 8 vocabulary words from the list in your writing.

Greetings, distinguished parents and social media executives,  
Today we are here to discuss the topic of sharenting. As we enter the Digital Age, our youth are being exposed to more and more electronics at an early age. Every day kids have to endure endless embarrassing photos taken by their parents. Imagine this: you are now twenty years old and are applying for your job. Then your parents run into the meeting and they show your potential boss all of your life's embarrassments. Forgotten tantrums, spoilt crocodile tears fill your mind. Your potential boss stands up. "I don't think you should have the job." That's it. Your parents have ruined everything. All of those embarrassing photos have ruined everything. So here's the question we're all asking: should children have the right to veto their parents' social media posts about them?

First of all, children should have privacy rights. In the UN Convention on Human Rights, Article 3, it states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.". If everyone has a right to security, then why are parents allowed to post on social media platforms without their child's permission? This can make them feel uncomfortable, as the posts can build up a digital identity that the child could feel obliged to show. They would feel that if they made a mistake, their online reputation would crumble. Would you want to feel like that?

In addition, children can experience cyberbullying. The Australian Bureau of Statistics stated that 5% of children had been cyberbullied. 5% may not sound much, but imagine, we have 5.1 million children. That just means hundreds of thousands of kids who get cyberbullied. If parents keep on posting on media platforms, some photos could even be tampered with and edited to create memes online. Would you want somebody to make you into a meme online just for everyone to laugh at you? It would make our children feel insecure and unsafe, and no one wants to feel like that.

Furthermore, children should be able to give consent to learn digital literacy. In the world of advancing technology, the crucial need of digital literacy is arising. It may be partially true that some children can be irresponsible, but if we never give children a chance, then how will they learn? Giving consent and understanding privacy policies can help children learn about how to be more digitally responsible, making a more cyber-safe online community for everyone.

Fellow parents and social media executives, listen to my plea. Children need to have a voice in publications involving themselves to create a cybersafe Australia. Without consent, parents are taking away our youth's right to have privacy as

stated in the UN Convention. It's never too late to take action, so together we can create a better Australia for everyone.

Please consider my arguments in your verdict. Thank you for your time today.

**INTERVIEW QUESTION:**

If I had a superpower, I would choose the power of influence. I believe that influencers can help shape the way we think and act, and through my influencing powers, I would be able to create a better place for everyone, a place where anyone could be themselves, a place where no race, gender or skin colour is superior to another, a place like Pymble Ladies College.