

THE DIGITAL FAMILY ALBUM:
BALANCING SHARING AND
PRIVACY IN THE AGE OF

SOCIAL MEDIA



WRITING PROMPT



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.

INTRODUCTION

In an era where parents frequently share their children's lives on social media, a debate has emerged about children's right to privacy and consent. This outline presents a persuasive framework for arguing that children should have the right to veto their parents' social media posts about them. By examining the long-term implications of "sharenting," children's evolving understanding of privacy, and the potential future consequences of a digital footprint, we aim to convince parents, educators, and policymakers of the importance of giving children a say in their online presence.

PERSUASIVE OUTLINE

1. The Digital Footprint Dilemma
2. The Psychological Impact of Sharenting
3. Privacy Rights and Consent
4. Future Consequences of Childhood Exposure
5. Balancing Family Sharing and Children's Autonomy

THE DIGITAL FOOTPRINT DILEMMA



**5 Tips For Parenting In
A Social Media Culture**

Setting the Scene:

- Examination of the extent of parental sharing on social media
- Analysis of the permanence of digital information
- Techniques for creating awareness about digital footprints

EXEMPLARS:

1. "Imagine discovering that your entire childhood, from your first steps to your most embarrassing moments, is documented online for anyone to see. This isn't a dystopian scenario—it's the reality for many children today. By the time the average child turns 5, their parents have posted 1,500 photos of them online. But at what cost to the child's future privacy and autonomy?"
2. "The internet never forgets. While a photo of a toddler's tantrum might seem cute to a parent now, it could become ammunition for bullies or even affect future job prospects. We must ask ourselves: do parents have the right to create a digital footprint for their child before the child can understand the implications?"
3. "Consider this: a study by the University of Michigan found that 56% of children aged 10-17 want their parents to ask permission before posting about them online. By giving children veto power, we acknowledge their right to shape their own digital identity and teach them valuable lessons about online privacy from an early age."

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF SHARENTING



- Analysis of how social media exposure affects child development
- Examination of the pressure children feel to live up to their online image
- Techniques for addressing the emotional aspects of online privacy

EXEMPLARS:

1. "While parents may see social media sharing as harmless fun, the psychological impact on children can be significant. Constant documentation can create performance anxiety, with children feeling pressured to live up to their curated online image. Is it fair to subject children to this stress before they're old enough to consent?"
2. "A study in the Journal of Developmental Psychology found that children whose parents frequently share about them on social media report feeling frustrated and powerless. By giving children veto rights, we empower them to set boundaries and develop a healthy sense of self-determination."
3. "Consider the case of 'Lil Tay,' a young internet personality whose carefully crafted online persona led to family disputes and eventual exploitation. This extreme example highlights the potential dangers of children becoming 'brands' before they can understand the consequences. Veto rights could serve as a safeguard against such exploitation."

PRIVACY RIGHTS AND CONSENT

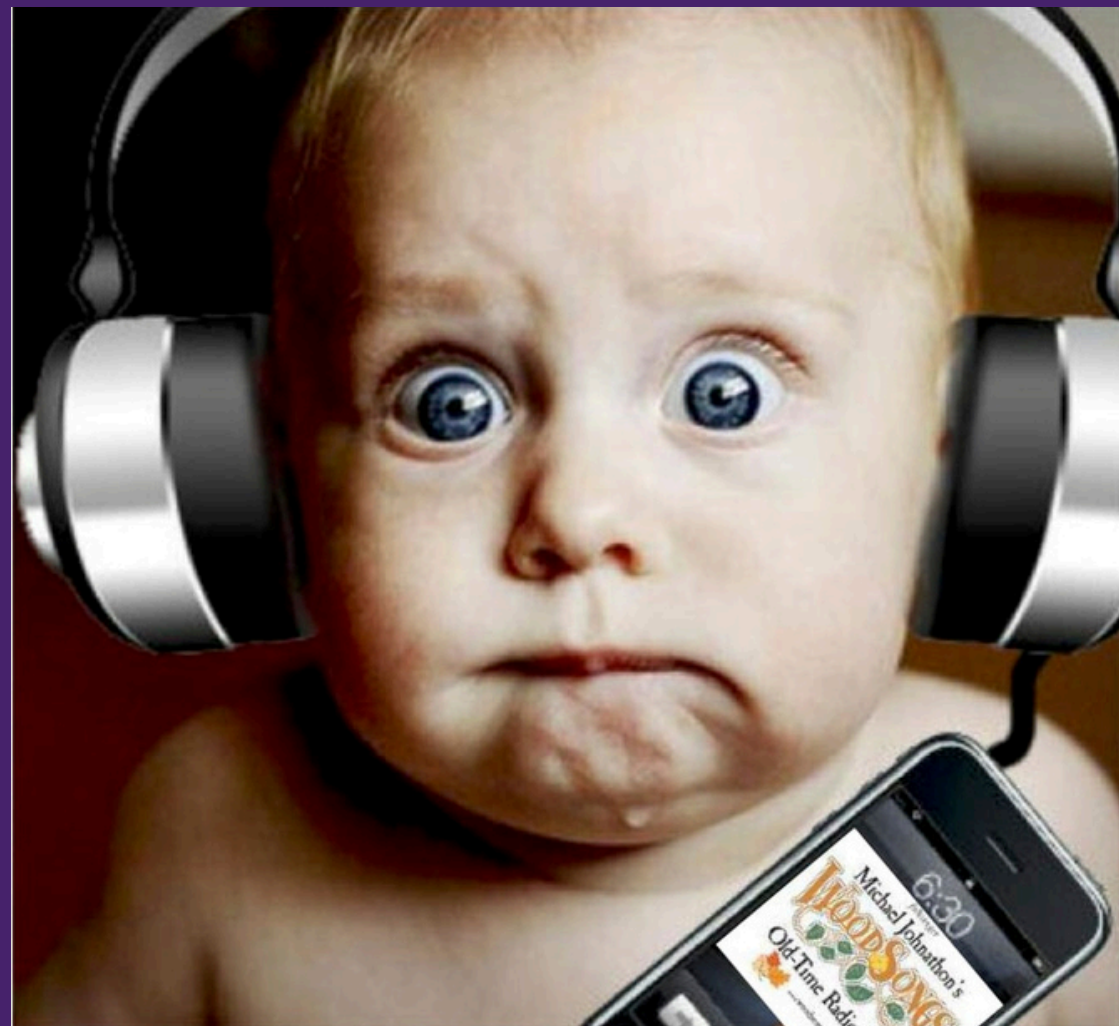


- Comparison of children's online privacy rights with other legal protections
- Analysis of the concept of consent in the digital age
- Techniques for framing privacy as a fundamental right

EXEMPLARS:

1. "We protect children's privacy in many areas of life—from medical records to school information. Why should social media be any different? Giving children veto power over posts about them extends these essential privacy protections into the digital realm."
2. "The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to privacy. In the digital age, shouldn't this include the right to control their online presence? By allowing children to veto posts, we're not just following the spirit of this convention—we're adapting it for the 21st century."
3. "Imagine if your parents had the ability to broadcast your every move to the world when you were growing up. Would you have wanted a say in what was shared? By giving children veto rights, we're acknowledging that they are individuals with their own right to privacy, not just extensions of their parents' online personas."

FUTURE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILDHOOD EXPOSURE



- Exploration of potential long-term effects of childhood social media presence
- Analysis of how digital footprints can affect future opportunities
- Techniques for projecting current actions into future scenarios

EXEMPLARS:

1. "In an age where 70% of employers check social media profiles during the hiring process, a child's digital footprint can have real-world consequences long before they enter the job market. By giving children veto power, we allow them to curate a digital presence that aligns with their future goals and values."
2. "Consider the case of an 18-year-old who lost a university scholarship due to an offensive tweet posted when she was 14. While this wasn't a parent's post, it illustrates how childhood digital footprints can have lasting impacts. Veto rights empower children to protect themselves from potentially harmful exposure."
3. "As facial recognition technology advances, even innocent childhood photos could be used in ways we can't yet imagine. By giving children control over their image from an early age, we're equipping them with the tools to navigate an increasingly complex digital landscape."

BALANCING FAMILY SHARING AND CHILDREN'S AUTONOMY



- Proposal for implementing veto rights in family social media use
- Analysis of how veto rights can foster digital literacy and responsibility
- Techniques for promoting open communication about online presence within families

EXEMPLARS:

1. "Implementing veto rights doesn't mean the end of family sharing on social media. Instead, it creates an opportunity for open dialogue about digital citizenship. By involving children in decisions about what to post, parents can teach valuable lessons about online safety and privacy."
2. "A study by the London School of Economics found that children whose parents included them in decisions about online sharing felt more positively about their family's social media use. Veto rights can strengthen family bonds by demonstrating respect for children's autonomy and fostering trust."
3. "By giving children veto power, we're not just protecting their privacy—we're preparing them for the digital world they'll inherit. In learning to make decisions about their online presence from a young age, children develop critical thinking skills essential for navigating social media as adults."

VOCABULARY LIST

1. Sharenting: The habitual use of social media to share news, images, etc. of one's children
2. Digital footprint: A trail of data you create while using the Internet
3. Consent: Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something
4. Privacy rights: Legal rights that protect an individual's personal information
5. Digital literacy: The ability to use information and communication technologies effectively
6. Online presence: The collective existence of a person or brand on the Internet
7. Digital citizenship: The responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices
8. Social media platform: A web-based technology that enables users to create, share, or exchange information, ideas, and pictures/videos in virtual communities and networks
9. Digital identity: Information on an entity used by computer systems to represent an external agent
10. Cyberbullying: The use of electronic communication to bully a person

VOCABULARY LIST

11. Data protection: The process of safeguarding important information from corruption, compromise or loss
12. Digital age: The current period in human history characterised by the shift from traditional industry to an economy based on information technology
13. Online privacy: The level of privacy protection an individual has while connected to the Internet
14. Digital autonomy: The ability to make informed and uncoerced decisions about one's digital life
15. Oversharing: Sharing too much personal information, especially on social media
16. Digital detox: A period of time during which a person refrains from using electronic devices
17. Internet safety: The knowledge of maximising the user's personal safety and security risks to private information and property associated with using the internet
18. Facial recognition: A biometric software application capable of uniquely identifying or verifying a person by comparing and analysing patterns based on the person's facial contours
19. Digital responsibility: The norms of appropriate, responsible behaviour with regard to technology use
20. Online reputation: The perception of a person or organisation in the digital world

EXEMPLAR RESPONSE

Distinguished parents and esteemed social media executives,

Imagine discovering that your most embarrassing childhood moments are immortalised online, visible to future employers, romantic interests, and even your own children. Now imagine you never had a say in this digital footprint that follows you like a shadow. This is the reality for countless children in the age of "sharenting."

Today, I stand before you to argue that children should have the right to veto their parents' social media posts about them. This isn't about stifling family sharing or dampening the joy of proud parents. It's about safeguarding our children's future in a world where online presence can make or break opportunities.

First, let's consider the long-term implications of sharenting. In an era where 70% of employers screen candidates' social media profiles, a child's digital footprint begins forming long before they can spell "privacy rights." That adorable bathtub photo might seem harmless now, but could it resurface during a future job interview or political campaign? By giving children veto power, we're not just protecting their privacy; we're preserving their right to shape their own digital identity.

EXEMPLAR RESPONSE

Moreover, think about the psychological impact of growing up in the spotlight of social media. Children are developing their sense of self in a fishbowl, constantly aware of the audience watching their every move. This can lead to performance anxiety, with kids feeling pressured to live up to their curated online image. Is it any wonder that studies show children whose parents frequently share about them online report feeling frustrated and powerless? Veto rights can restore a sense of control and foster digital autonomy.

Now, I can hear some of you thinking, "But they're just kids. They don't understand the complexities of the digital world." To that, I say: exactly. They're just kids, which is precisely why they need protection. Just as we have laws safeguarding children's privacy in education and healthcare, we need to extend these protections to their online lives. Giving them veto power is a step towards comprehensive data protection in the digital age.

Some might argue that this infringes on parents' rights to share their family life. But I ask you: does a parent's right to share trump a child's right to privacy? By implementing veto rights, we're not ending family sharing; we're fostering open communication about online privacy. It's an opportunity to teach digital literacy and responsibility from an early age.

Consider this: a study by the London School of Economics found that children whose parents included them in decisions about online sharing felt more positively about their family's social media use. By giving children a say, we're not just protecting their privacy; we're strengthening family bonds and teaching valuable lessons about consent and digital citizenship.

EXEMPLAR RESPONSE

To the social media executives here today, I say this: you have the power to lead the charge. Imagine a feature that prompts parents to seek their child's approval before posting. Or an option for children to flag content about themselves for removal. These tools could revolutionise how families navigate the digital landscape while positioning your platforms as champions of ethical sharing.

In conclusion, the right to veto is more than just about deletion; it's about dialogue. It's about teaching our children to be mindful digital citizens. It's about respecting their autonomy and preparing them for the digital world they'll inherit.

Let's not wait until it's too late. Let's give our children the power to curate their own digital narratives. Because in the end, their story should be theirs to tell.

Thank you.