

name? P.2

PERFORM THE TASK

Should individuals be prosecuted for statements made on social media?

**You will read:**

- ▶ **A RADIO INTERVIEW**
The Dangers of Cyberbullying
- ▶ **AN INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE**
Sacrificing the First Amendment to Catch "Cyberbullies"
- ▶ **A FACT SHEET**
What is Cyberbullying?

You will write:

- ▶ **AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**
Should individuals be prosecuted for statements made on social media?

WARNKE: Thanks for joining us. Now, what exactly does the proposed bill seek to accomplish?

FOSTER: The Megan Meier Cyber Bullying Prevention Act helps to define what is covered under the term “cyberbullying.” For instance, in order for a behavior to be defined as cyberbullying, it must be repeated, hostile, and severe with the intent to embarrass, threaten, or harass. We included the term repeated in our definition so that actions that are a part of an isolated incident, such as telling someone you hate him or her in the
30 midst of a verbal argument, is not considered cyberbullying.

WARNKE: But shouldn't law enforcement officials be focusing on the kinds of crimes that affect more people? Cyberbullying might seem somewhat trivial, as it only affects only two people: the bully and the victim.

FOSTER: Although cyberbullying may seem insignificant in the big picture, in a survey conducted in 2006, nearly 1 in 3 teens
40 admitted to being the victim of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying can also lead to kids getting physically injured. This bill ensures that someone is held accountable for the behavior that led to someone getting hurt. And by passing the Prevention Act, we're deterring people from engaging in cyberbullying by showing such behavior is a punishable crime that won't be tolerated.

WARNKE: What are the differences between bullying and cyberbullying?

NOTES

Meg-

Kids get physically injured with cyberbullying

Close Read

What is a limitation of the proposed law that Ms. Foster cites?

It must be limited, hostile, and severe with the intent to
embarrass, threaten, or harass.

Part 2: Write

ASSIGNMENT

You have read about social media, free speech, and cyberbullying. Now write an argumentative essay explaining why you agree or disagree with the idea that individuals should be prosecuted for statements made on social media. Support your claim with details from what you have read.

Plan

Use the graphic organizer to help you outline the structure of your argumentative essay.

