

Name _____ Date _____

Debating the Future

Should schools and libraries block Web sites?

Most schools and some libraries use filtering software to block sites that are considered unsuitable for kids. Such software blocks Web sites that may contain sexual, hateful, or violent content. However, because the software merely looks for certain words, it may also block kids from sites that have useful or important information. Should schools and libraries use filters in the future? Explain your answer.

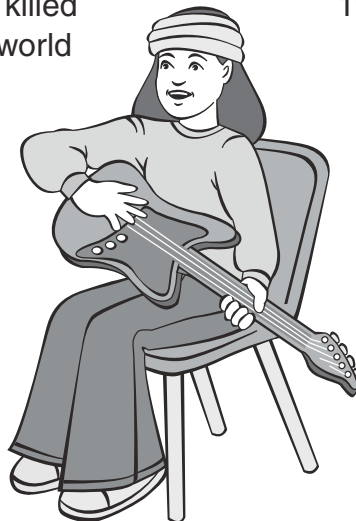


Will the Internet make schools disappear?

Today, some people are going to college without leaving home. They get class notes, talk with classmates and teachers, and take tests online. In the future, there will be more and more ways to learn online. How might online learning affect schools? Will we need fewer teachers? Will school buildings be torn down?

Will the Internet save lives?

Throughout history, disasters have happened to people around the world. Wars, diseases, droughts, and earthquakes have killed millions. What if everyone in the world were connected to the Internet? Might Internet communication encourage people to help each other? Could it make the world a better place for everyone?



Will the Internet ruin kids?

In the 1960s, parents said that rock music was turning teens against their parents. In the 1980s, parents said that television was turning their kids into zombies. Today, parents worry that the Internet is keeping teens from getting exercise. They also worry that it's taking the place of face-to-face social activities. Will today's teens, the Internet generation, become unhealthy and socially awkward adults?

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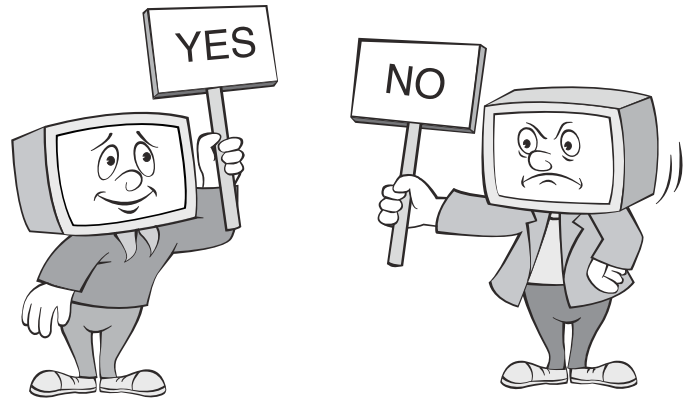
Debate Team Plan

Team members _____

Issue (one of the questions from Activity Sheet 1) _____

Thesis (your answer to the question above) _____

Arguments (points that support your thesis)



Visual Aid (a diagram, picture, chart, or skit)