Research exercise: An Inductive Approach toward Understanding the Legal Parameters of Student Speech Regarding Social Media Technology

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Social media creates a permanent digital record. The potential audience of social media engagement is seemingly endless. Social media blurs the line between on and off campus speech.

**Critical Evaluation**

Social Media in Education

Dunn (2012) suggests three reasons why social media is banned: bullying, hard to monitor, and it's a distraction. Current thought suggests that an educational aspect to these policies should be added so that students can learn how to use with the technology properly (Junco, 2011).

**Social Media Cases in Schools**

- Layshock v. Hermitage School District
- Snyder v. Blue Mountain School District
- Kowalski v. Berkeley County Schools
- Doninger v. Niehoff

**Social Media Cases in Higher Education**

- Tatro posted comments on Facebook
- The university disciplined Tatro for the posts
- The student code indicated that the school has the authority to address student speech whether on or off campus
- The court found that Tatro's posts “materially and substantially disrupt[ed] the work and discipline of the school.”
- However, the court did conclude that the “true threat” measure did not apply because no threats were made by Tatro

**References**

- Dunn, J. (2012, January 4). Why students like social media but schools don't. Retrieved from Students and social media website: http://edudemic.com/2012/01/students-