



The Impact of Hazelwood on School Publications – Scenarios worksheet

I. A student-run newspaper features an investigative article on a past misdemeanor marijuana conviction of a teacher in the school. For the sake of privacy, the conviction had been kept from the knowledge of the greater school community, including parents, teachers and most administrators.

II. A student literary magazine includes a thinly veiled story about the sexual activities of school athletes. The names are fabricated, but the setting and situations are remarkably similar to the school's own and are therefore easily identifiable.

III. A student-led petition is disseminated on school grounds seeking support for the reprimand of a history teacher who had punished a student for her outspoken views against the war in Iraq. The teacher justified sending the student out of the class by arguing that her "unruly, one-sided opinions were becoming a serious disruption."

Use the chart below to help you more effectively organize your responses.

For each case above (identified by I, II or III in the chart), the group should decide whether "yes" or "no" should be circled in response to the corresponding question (identified by A, B or C). Be ready to defend your answer with good reasoning.

A. Is the instance of expression one that would "substantially interfere with the work of the school or impinge upon the rights of other students"?

B. Would there be a legitimate educational reason for the administration to limit or disallow the expression?

C. Therefore, according to the Supreme Court's 1988 ruling, would the administration be legally permitted to exercise censorship?

Case	A		B		C	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
I	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
II	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
III	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No