



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of the* NEW YORK COURTS

CYBERSPACE AND THE LAW: WHAT ARE OUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

Essay Prompts

1. CYBERBULLYING

Examine the newly-enacted New York law governing cyberbullying and analyze current research on cyberbullying prevention. How do we balance the First Amendment free speech rights of students with the need to prevent the harm (including death) to students who are the targets of cyberbullies?

2. DIGITAL PIRACY

One of the benefits of cyberspace is the ease with which we can maintain contact with our friends and share important aspects of our lives. However, sometimes the things we'd like to share are copyrighted artistic works and file-sharing would run afoul of copyright laws. How can we ensure that the rights of both the copyright owners and those of lawful download owners are fair and balanced?

3. PRIVACY IN PERIL

Privacy is the power to control how much other people know about us. Few of us realize the extent to which our Internet activities are tracked or know that our digital footprints remain traceable, often for long periods of time. How can we balance our digital lives and our personal privacy?

4. GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

The right to be free of unwarranted search and seizure is enshrined in the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, but new technologies, such as drones and smart phone GPS, have made widespread law enforcement and governmental surveillance of the American population possible. Is this technology eroding our Fourth Amendment rights and forcing us to change our expectations about privacy in public spaces?