

# Meeting in the Middle: Navigating Community Standards

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# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Register your attendance.

*Complete this form for each session you attend.*

Session numbers  
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Rosters

# Community Standards

Community standards are local norms that define acceptable behavior and expectations that are generally accepted as a standard of courteous behavior or a legal right. They can be informal and imprecisely described as "I'll know it when I see it" or they can be itemized in a list that states the community's values and guidelines for participation.



# What are they REALLY...Part 1

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- Community standards can serve many purposes, including:
- Creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment.
- By establishing clear guidelines for behavior, communication, and interaction, community standards can help create a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants.
- Resolving disputes.

# What are they REALLY...Part 2

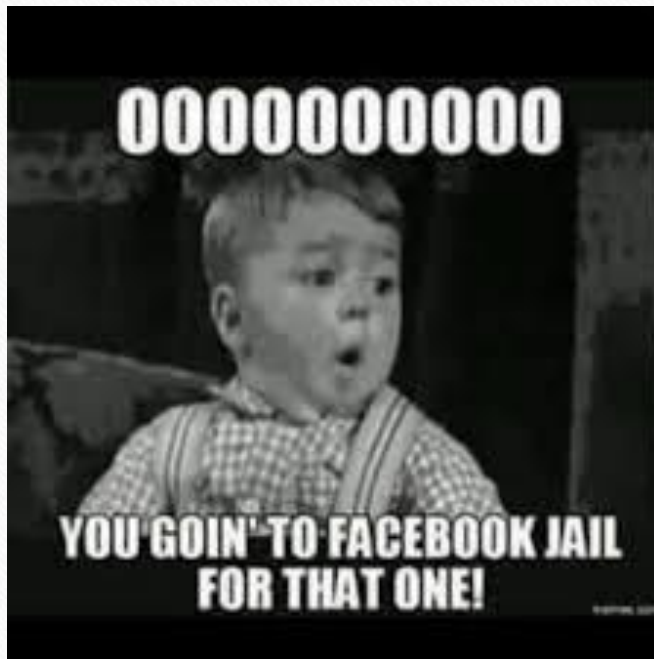
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- Community standards are often invoked in legal situations to resolve disputes, especially relating to obscenity.
- Moderating content.
- Community standards can govern behaviors, with certain real-world effects. For example.....

# FACEBOOK JAIL!!!

*Photo by Crochet 365 Knit Too*

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# Where are We????

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- According to a 2021 Pew Research Center survey, 65% of U.S. adults say that people being too easily offended is a major problem in the country today.

# What is Offensive?

*Photo from The Seattle Times*

- The Oxford Language dictionary defines offensive as: causing someone to feel deeply hurt, upset, or angry.





# What is Offensive to You?

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- Bad Language?
- PDA?
- Clothing?
- Political Statements?
- Violence?
- Sexual Content?
- Use of Drugs and Alcohol?

# And the Answer is.....

*Photo From: Psychology Today, 2024*

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- What really causes people to be offended: ***insecurity.***



# Where does Insecurity Come From?

*Photo From Psychology Today*

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- **Lack of Empathy. Participation in Speech and Debate Teaches Empathy.**



# What is Empathy?

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- **Merriam-Webster defines empathy as:**
  - the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another

# Battleground: Texas School Libraries

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- **Texas leads nation in school book bans, new report shows**
- More than 800 books removed in the past year, free speech advocates find.
- Texas has removed more books from school libraries than in any other state this year, according to a new report released at the start of [Banned Books Week](#).
- More than 800 books — many centered on race, racism, sexuality and LGBTQ issues — were pulled between July 2021 and June 2022, targeting titles, according to PEN America, a nonprofit organization that advocates for free speech.
- Source: Meghan Mangrum, The Dallas Morning News, September 19, 2022

# Texas is BIG!

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- Community Standards Vary based on:
  - Population
  - Urban/Rural
  - Proximity to Urban Areas
  - Administration
  - School Board
  - Political Leanings

# Freedom of Speech?

*Source: David L. Hudson, Jr., Free Speech Center, Middle Tennessee State University, 2023*

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- Teachers asserting a First Amendment violation must now clear an additional hurdle, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Garcetti v. Ceballos* (2006). In *Garcetti* the Court ruled that public employees do not retain First Amendment protection for speech as part of their official job duties.

# Effects On Teachers

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# What Should We Look At?

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- What is the content? (*Political, Social, Inflammatory*)
  - *What is the Message?*
  - *Who is Sending the Message?*
  - *What is the INTENT of the Message?*
- What type of language is used?
- Is this material appropriate for teenagers?
- Is this material appropriate to show an Administrator?
- Is this material appropriate to show an Audience?

# Support

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01

Principal

02

Superintendent  
and School Board

03

Parents

# Oral Interpretation

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01

Prose Interpretation

02

Poetry Interpretation

# Extemporaneous Speaking

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01

Informative Speaking

02

Persuasive Speaking

# One-Act Play

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01

Content of the  
Play

02

Staging Intimacy  
in the Play

03

Staging Violence  
in the Play

# Debate

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01

Cross-  
Examination  
Debate

02

Lincoln-Douglas  
Debate

03

Congressional  
Debate

# Social Media

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01

Facebook

02

Twitter

03

TIK TOK

# And Finally.....

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- Questions and Answers
- Contact: [shawn.duthie@hollidayisd.net](mailto:shawn.duthie@hollidayisd.net)





# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Registration link,  
presentations and handouts  
are available on the website.

*Remember to register your  
attendance for each session.*

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Handouts & More