**2017-2018 We the Students Essay Prompt**

*To what extent in the U.S. does the government–federal, state, and local–have the duty to monitor internet content?*

This year we are asking you to come up with some answers to one of the most pressing First Amendment issues of our time. This is a topic that touches on everything from cyberbullying in schools to issues of national security. Does your school have the right to monitor your social media? Does the federal government have the right to monitor the emails and social media accounts of ordinary citizens in the name of identifying potential international and domestic terrorism? Where does the line get drawn? You tell us!

In your answer, incorporate Constitutional principles and specific examples (including current events) that support your conclusion.

The following resources will be located on the class website ([www.traxushistory.weebly.com](http://www.traxushistory.weebly.com)) under 7th period.

* Bill of Rights Institute Educator Resources:
  + Documents of Freedom – Bill of Rights
  + Voices of History – Freedom of Speech
  + Voices of History – Reno v. ACLU
* Related News:
  + Net Neutrality – ACLU
  + Net Neutrality 101 – Competitive Enterprise Institute
  + Internet Freedom – Federal Communications Commission
  + Internet Filtering at Schools – the Atlantic
  + Cyberbullying – Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
  + Texting Suicide Verdict – USA Today
  + Free Speech on the Internet – NPR
  + Charlottesville and Free Speech – CNN

**Due Dates:**

***January 22 – 26, 2018***

* Students will present their essay to the class during the week of January 22 – 26th. This will allow students to receive feedback from their peers. (My hope is that the students will take the feedback and go back to their essay to edit and revise before officially submitting to the We the People Essay Contest online.)

***February 2, 2018***

* Students must provide a copy of their essay to Mrs. Trax. Essays should be typed with word count indicated at the top of the essay. Students will be graded using the Persuasive/Opinon Writing Rubric used in ELA.

***BEFORE February 5, 2018, 11:59pm***

* Students must electronically submit their essay to:
  + <https://webportalapp.com/sp/signup/wethestudents2017>
* PLEASE NOTE: There is a 2-step application process. Please sign on and create an account early.

Username: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_