



CENSORED.

The right to NOT remain silent

by junior Caleb McCullough.

Freedom of thought and speech is one of the most basic, fundamental rights of an individual. Censorship is usually done by the government, but what if the censorship is not done by government, but by the individuals themselves?

Cultural censorship appears when someone in power, or culture as a whole, denies freedom of speech to someone who has opposing views. A world where ideas are not allowed an equal playing field is a censored world. There seems to be a growing idea that the correct response to a view that one finds repulsive, and even dangerous, is to silence and censor people.

This often happens to people accused of being racist or hateful in some form. Here's a perfect example: Milo Yiannopoulos, a popular conservative commentator, was stopped from hosting an event at University of California Davis in January because protesters,

calling him fascist, racist, sexist, and worse, blocked access to the hall and stopped the event from happening. As the protestors were celebrating the success of their blockade, many more were mourning a tragic loss for free speech.

Everyone, even those whose views you find horrible and dangerous, deserves to have a voice. The contribution of these people is important to the overall discussion.

A world where ideas are not on an equal playing field IS A CENSORED WORLD.

There is a constant battle raging in Twitter feeds and coffee shops, in classrooms and chat rooms. It is the battle of ideas. It has existed forever, and it will never end. The key to the success of this battle of ideas is that every idea, every assertion, every outrageous statement, is given an equal playing field. Ideas rise and fall based on their validity and influence. This ideological stew is what allowed us to progress to where we are today.

Freedom of speech, and by extension the equality of ideas, is the most basic necessity of a free society. It should be a key concern for everyone. Whether you agree with someone or not, you should always support their right to say what they believe. If not, your deepest convictions could be next on the chopping block.

Do you feel CENSORED at Hudson High School?



NO. "The school is just here to do their job, and we should be mature and respectful to the rules placed."
- senior Brett O'Connor

Do you feel CENSORED in society?



NO. "I don't feel censored in society because I don't care what others think about me."
- sophomore Raegan Swangel



YES. "I think that some of the student section and dress code rules can be too strict."
- freshman Rylie Delagardelle



YES. "We lack diversity at our school, which can make us censored in society."
- high school math teacher Nancy Uden

Of the 41 HHS students polled-

Behind bars Students feel censored



by junior Hailey Elder.

I come to school every day with a mind full of ideas- ideas that could change the world, yet I rarely express those ideas. I just sit in my chair with my mouth shut, like I'm supposed to. I just do as I'm told, like I'm supposed to. I just passively absorb what is given to me, regurgitate it, and forget it- like I'm supposed to.

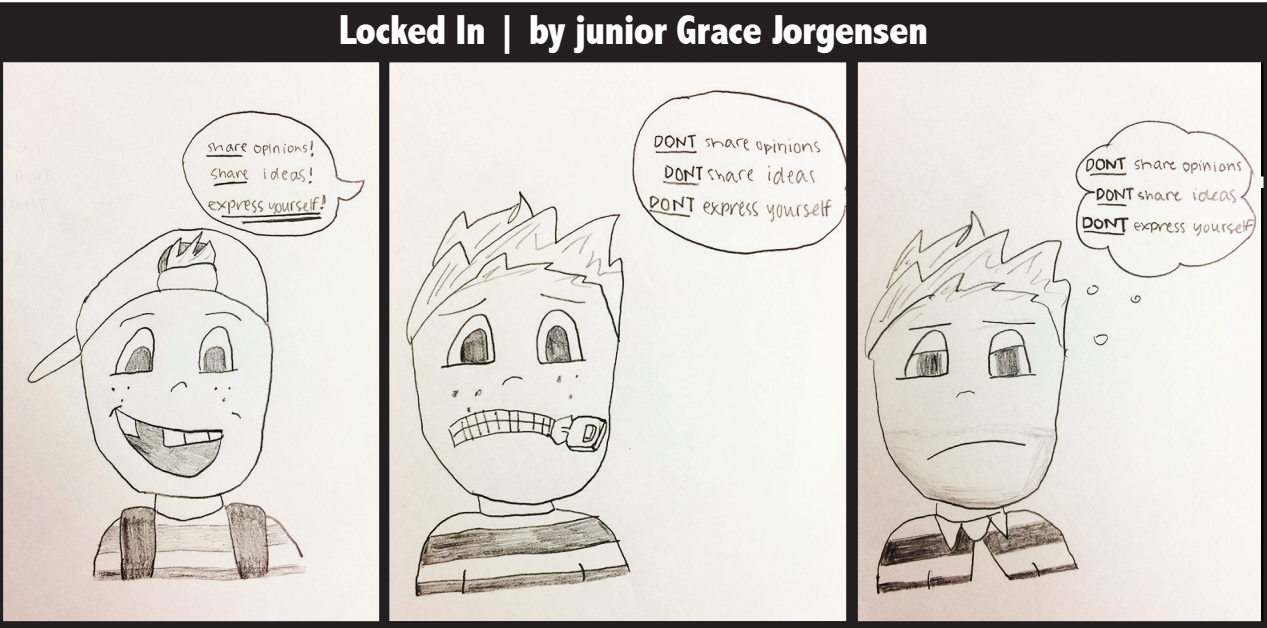
I feel like I'm in a prison. I am one of hundreds of inmates, I mean students, serving a 13-year sentence. Once we get released for good behavior- I mean when we graduate- we are just another name in the books. Aside from a mug shot that hangs in the commons, there's really no evidence we were ever here- and there's a reason for that. We aren't allowed to leave our mark nor speak our minds. We aren't allowed to have a mind of our own. We aren't allowed to disagree. We aren't allowed to challenge, to question, or to express ourselves.

And here's the real problem with that: School isn't just about learning from our teachers, it's also about learning from each other. Tell me, how are we going to learn from each other without

anyone being able to freely state what they think?

We don't learn how to politely disagree in school, and that's the reason most adults can't. Once we go into the real world, where we are finally able to express our thoughts, we can't. We can't stand the fact that other people might think differently because we've never learned how to agree to disagree. Don't believe me? Open up a newspaper. Turn on the TV. Check your social media. Our country is being torn apart because of adults who cannot express their opinions without frustration and retaliation by those who disagree.

But understand, the school and its teachers aren't to blame- we are. The prison to which I'm referring is self-inflicted. Ditching censorship starts within yourself. Don't be silent. Speak up. And stop expecting others to censor themselves as well. Learn to not only hear, but to really listen, to those whose opinions differ from yours. After all, having a differing opinion from others doesn't make you disrespectful, it just makes you different. That's a good thing.



64% do NOT feel CENSORED in society

61% do feel CENSORED at school