

Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier / You Decide—Answer Key

Directions: Complete the table. Use information from the excerpt of [the majority opinion in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* \(1988\)](#) to help you complete the chart.

Situation	Were the students' rights violated?		Explanation
	Yes	No	
1. The school's TV station covers a story on the new policy that requires that students wear IDs. In the story, many of the students are critical of the policy. The adviser reviews the show and finds that there are many factual errors regarding the policy. The adviser tells the students that if they want the story to air, they must revise it.		X	There were factual errors. A school may distance itself from speech about school facilities that is not "adequately researched."
2. The drama club wants to perform a play. Because it involves some sexually explicit scenes, they say they will perform it off-campus at a local recreation center. The principal says this is not allowed and they must select another play.		X	The answer to this question depends on whether this is a school-sponsored activity. A school may "dissociate itself" from speech that is "unsuitable for immature audiences." Furthermore, "A school must also retain the authority to refuse to sponsor student speech that might reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise inconsistent with 'the shared values of a civilized social order.'" Assuming the students plan to perform as the drama club — and not on their own when school is not in session — the principal's act was lawful.
3. A student works at home to create a website that contains comments that are critical of his teachers. The principal immediately sends the student to in-school suspension for two days and makes them write a letter of apology to each of their teachers.	X		Since this is personal website constructed completely at home, rather than a school website, the school may not censor the student's critical speech. However, if this speech created a substantial disruption at school, the principal would be able to intervene.

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4. The student newspaper publishes an article about a shoplifting incident that occurred during a school-sponsored field trip. The school board censors the article saying it makes the school system look bad.	X		The law is not clear on this, but probably the school newspaper can print these articles as "making the school look bad" in the eyes of the school board is not a sufficient reason for limiting student speech.
5. The art club plans a showcase night. One of the students has painted a picture of other students drinking alcohol at a school football game. The art teacher says this painting cannot be displayed at the school's showcase night because it seems to advocate the use of alcohol.		X	"A school must also retain the authority to refuse to sponsor student speech that might reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise inconsistent with 'the shared values of a civilized social order.'"
6. The newspaper staff writes an editorial in support of legalizing marijuana. Their adviser tells them that if they want it to be printed, they must present both sides of the issue.		X	"A school must also retain the authority to refuse to sponsor student speech that might . . . associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy . . ." Requiring that they present both sides of the issue is "reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns."
7. Students on the newspaper staff create an online version of the school's newspaper. In it, they provide advice on where to get birth control. The principal tells the staff to delete the article because the content is not appropriate for the younger students in the school.		X	This is a school-sponsored site. A school may "dissociate itself" from speech that is "unsuitable for immature audiences. " Furthermore, "A school must also retain the authority to refuse to sponsor student speech that might reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise inconsistent with 'the shared values of a civilized social order.'"

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8. The Student Government Association wants to hold a rally in support of abortion rights in the school's auditorium. Their adviser tells them they cannot do this.		X	"A school must also retain the authority to refuse to sponsor student speech that might . . . associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy . . ." If other student groups have been permitted to hold anti-abortion rallies, then the advisor was wrong.