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### Public Speeches

While it can be seen that speeches at times given by scheduled speakers at campuses promote “hate speech,” the U.S. constitution protects the right to free speech, regardless of the viewpoint. Therefore, despite the risks of protests or unjust actions erupting from an opposing side, these speakers should not be “disinvited” from giving their speeches.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to freedom of speech, in which “hate speech is not considered, by itself, to be unprotected under the First Amendment,” (Raphelson). Despite the fact that someone may disagree with one’s viewpoint, they nonetheless have the right to speak it. The “disinviting” of scheduled speakers silences them from being able to speak their point of view towards the subject. Institutions cancelling them out simply because they do not agree with them or feel that their body may not agree is outrageous, a form of censorship to be specific. Free speech “should be nothing less than a core mission of any college or university,” (ACLU). If they are so set on doing what is right for its body, they should without a doubt allow different viewpoints of a matter to be shared. Yes, threats and violence, from the opposing side, should be avoided at all costs and are against the law, but as ACLU states, “a person can only be prosecuted for a specific crime associated with the hate speech but not the speech on its own,” (ACLU). As long as the speaker is only expressing their viewpoint, and not directly causing violence themselves, they are not doing anything wrong. In order to

have a functioning democracy within a country, its citizens must be able to express their viewpoints towards important matters without the threat of being silenced. Without that, it would simply fall apart into ruin.

Works Cited

Raphelson, Samantha. "Milo Yiannopoulos' 'Free Speech Week' at Berkeley Falls Apart, Organizers Say." *NPR*, 22 Sept. 2017, [www.npr.org/2017/09/22/552427627/why-a-potential-free-speech-week-at-berkeley-is-causing-a-stir](http://www.npr.org/2017/09/22/552427627/why-a-potential-free-speech-week-at-berkeley-is-causing-a-stir). Accessed 31 Aug. 2022.

"Speech on Campus." *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)*, [www.aclu.org/other/speech-campus](http://www.aclu.org/other/speech-campus). Accessed 31 Aug. 2022.