

Sample Editorial

Safeguarding the Internet

Have you ever typed something in on the internet for a school or work report and had something pornographic come up instead? According to my survey given to kids ages 11 and 12, 20 of the kids answered “yes”. Does this surprise you? Should kids be seeing things like this on the internet? No! Many sites on the internet are completely inappropriate for kids. Sites like those could stain our minds forever. Something should be done to safeguard the internet for kids.

“I was on the internet doing a report for school on the White House, so I typed in ‘whitehouse.com’ said sixth grade student, Emily W. All of a sudden the screen was covered with porn movies and naked people. It was disgusting!” How would you feel if it had been your child seeing this garbage? Would you be angry? Would you be scared to let them back on the internet? Many parents feel that it is a serious problem. “I feel uncomfortable letting kids on the internet. The names can be very misleading to children doing a search for a particular word and it can cause them to enter a site unaware of what may be displayed”, said Meece Middle librarian’s assistant, Mrs. C.

Porn sites have eased their way up slowly and are now an extremely large percentage of internet sites. Kids don’t like it, either. “To my mind, it seems like about 90% of the time the websites on the internet are bad or not appropriate because you can accidentally misspell a word and it can cause you to wind up on a porn site”, said 6th grade student, Morgan C. The people making these sites think things they know people will often type in for a school or business report and it like one letter, knowing people will often misspell it. “Satellite” is one of these tricky words. “It is easy to misspell stuff and get the wrong thing”, said Hannah B. “Once I was looking up ‘satellite’ and I accidentally spelled it ‘satteligh’, she continued “When I pushed ‘enter’, to go to that site, a very perverted site came up. They should have it to where there is no way kids could misspell something for a school report and it come up to one of those sites.”

There are two simple solutions that I would propose. One is to have pornographic sites banned completely. If it was illegal to have those sites and the government could remove them, then we wouldn’t have to see it. The second suggestion is make those kinds of websites have a flashing screen that said something like “This is an adult website. It is not recommended for anyone under 18 years of age.” Maybe Access could be arenged to were you had to sign in to go to the bad stuff. Then at least we would know that it was a bad site before we were exposed to the pornographic pictures.

So, as you can see, there are some simple solutions to this problem. I'm sure you wouldn't want your kids on these sites, so please do all you can to change this error ASAP! It would be very much appreciated by all of our parents.