

**Professor Bill Wolff**  
**College Composition II, Spring 2007, CRN 23239**  
**First Week Writing Sample**

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**Prompt:**

The last few years have seen a rise in social networking websites like MySpace and FaceBook, where mostly young people post information about themselves and where they may send messages to one another. Individual pages on such sites include personal details such as the member's age, gender and relationship status as well as photographs and lists of friends. However, users of such websites may have to contend with unwanted judgments. A recent *New York Times* article describes how parents visiting the MySpace page of their child's potential college roommate have been disturbed by the roommate's photos or statements which suggest to the parent that the roommate drinks heavily, uses drugs or is sexually promiscuous. The parents then ask the college to change their child's room assignment. Potential employers may also check an applicant's MySpace site before hiring and reject the candidate for similar reasons.

MySpace users might consider such judgments unfair. After all, they created their MySpace page to be used by other MySpace members—their friends and peers—not by others. They might say that references to drinking, drugs or sex are exaggerated in order to present themselves as sophisticated or as more interesting to their peers.

**Writing Assignment:**

Write an essay that addresses this issue in a problem-solution format. That is, present the problem as you see it and then in a separate section of the essay, give a solution or solutions to that problem.

You have until the end of the course period to complete the assignment.