EST I – Essay

Student's Name _____

National ID _____

Test Center: _____

Duration: 50 minutes

Instructions:

- Read the directions carefully before writing your essay.
- Use the first 2 pages as a draft, anything written on these pages will not be taken into consideration.

Directions: This assignment will allow you to demonstrate your ability to skillfully read and understand a source text and write a response analyzing the source. In your response, you should show that you have understood the source, give proficient analysis, and use the English language effectively. If your essay is off-topic, it will not be scored.

Only what you write on the lined paper in your answer document will be scored. Avoid skipping lines, using unreasonably large handwriting, and using wide margins in order to have sufficient space to respond. You can also write on the planning sheet in the answer document, but this will not be evaluated — no other scrap paper will be given. Be sure to write clearly and legibly so your response can be scored.

You will be given 50 minutes to complete the assignment, including reading the source text and writing your response.

Read the following passage, and think about how the author uses:

- Evidence, such as applicable examples, to justify the argument
- Reasoning to show logical connections among thoughts and facts
- Rhetoric, like sensory language and emotional appeals, to give weight to the argument

The Perils of 'Sharenting'

Adrienne Lafrance

1. In the United States, the vast majority of 2-year-olds—more than 90 percent of them, according to a 2010 survey—already have an online presence. More than 80 percent of babies younger than that are already on social media, too. Many children make their Internet debut as grainy gray blobs on posted ultrasound images before they're even born. Sometime past toddlerhood, these kids might become aware that their online identities are already being shaped in some depth, and usually by their parents. Given the searchable, shareable, long-lasting nature of what's published on the web, this dual role of parent and publisher raises a host of questions about privacy, consent, and the parent-child relationship more broadly.

2. "It's very rare that parents are sharing maliciously, but they haven't considered the potential reach or longevity of what is happening with the information they're posting," says Stacey Steinberg, a law professor at the University of Florida's Levin College of Law and the associate director of the school's Center on Children and Families. It's typical for adults to mention a child's name and birthdate in birth announcements and other posts on social media, for instance, which puts kids at risk of identity theft and digital kidnapping—when someone lifts images of another person's kids and portrays them as their own. Some parents publish real-time information about their children's whereabouts, potentially risking their safety.

3. In Steinberg's new paper, "Sharenting: Children's Privacy in the Age of Social Media," set to be published in the Emory Law Journal in the spring of 2017, she writes of a blogger who posted photos of her young twins. "She later learned that strangers accessed the photos, downloaded them, altered them, and shared them on a website," Steinberg wrote. "This mother warns other parents not to post pictures of children, to use search engine features to find any images shared online, and to reconsider their interest in mommy blogging."

4. Steinberg also reports that children who grow up with a sense of privacy, coupled with supportive and less controlling parents, fare better in life. She also mentions studies that report these children to have a greater sense of overall well-being and greater life satisfaction than children who enter adulthood having experienced less autonomy in childhood.

5. Despite the argument that social media has ushered in a post-privacy world in which young people's concepts of—and expectations for—privacy will be all but nonexistent, there's evidence that digital natives still care about privacy online. "We are seeing a move towards more private behavior online, even among children," wrote the authors of a paper presented last year at the 24th International World Wide Web Conference. "Applications, which circumvent the permanence of most digital communications, are very popular among adolescents and teens, since they allow users to share private moments without the drama or long-term consequences of persistent messaging applications."

6. Children's advocates argue that kids have a moral right to control their own digital footprint, and perhaps even a legal right. Steinberg suggests that so-called "right to be forgotten" laws—like ones in the European Union and in Argentina that allow an individual to request personal information be scrubbed from search-engine results—could be passed to protect minors in the United States. The country's strong free-press protections make this a complicated (and ultimately unlikely) prospect, however. Steinberg is also asking the American Academy of Pediatrics to develop best practices for parents with regard to online sharing. Standard guidelines might include giving children "veto power" over what's published online, setting up alerts for children's names, and reading—actually reading, not just agreeing to—the privacy policies of websites before publishing photos there.

7. Someone might blog about a child's medical condition as a way to seek or offer support, or to raise crucial funds for health care. Sharing baby photos on social media is a way to keep far-flung families feeling close. But the benefits of sharing still don't outweigh the potential harm that can be caused. "The reality is that the data shared by parents could be revealed by search algorithms for years to come," Steinberg told me. "And we don't know what our children's goals might be when they get older." The bottom line, Steinberg says: "Don't share something online that you wouldn't be okay sharing publicly."

Write a response that demonstrates how Adrienne Lafrance makes an argument to persuade her audience that parents need to limit posting about their children on social media. In your response, analyze how the author uses at least one of the features from the essay directions (or features of your own choosing) to develop a logical and persuasive argument. Be certain that your response cites relevant aspects of the source text.

Your response should not give your personal opinion on the merit of the source text, but instead show how the author crafts an argument to persuade readers.

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Please write your essay here

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