

I am in support of a law to ban symbols of hate in public schools. Visual symbols of hate are exposed to hundreds or thousands of students each day when schools are in session. Exposure to any type of stimuli can increase attractiveness the more often it is seen. This encourages students to engage in conversations about topics that would be best discussed in a moderated and supervised conversation. This would ensure the spread and understanding of accurate information. Additionally, symbols of hate also encourage unity. When liked-minded individuals unify, the result is often a polarized opinion that can lead to a lack of judgment. This type of thinking can result in deindividuation leading students to vandalism, bullying, harassment, and in extreme situations, physical violence.

Hate symbols can be a powerful tool in schools though. Educators should be allowed to show and discuss them in their classes as a controlled forum to enlighten, educate, and encourage students to stop future hate symbols and speech.

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