**Social media Essay**

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Harvard is the oldest and one of the most highly-regarded institutions of higher learning. The institution has gained credibility over the years from the great academic performances of its students and the independence and growth that comes along after graduating. Moreover, Harvard is committed to creating and sustaining the conditions that enable students to experience an unparalleled educational journey. The school’s core values include respect for rights and differences, honesty and integrity, the pursuit of excellence, and accountability for actions and conduct. These values protect the respect Harvard has to build. Every individual affiliated with Havard should respect and acknowledge the established values; hence, the school administration has a right to take action against individuals who deviate from the rules, including revoking admission offers for students.

A recent case attracted public debate in which Harvard University had to rescind the admission letters of ten students who were participated in a highly offensive group conversation on social media (Zimmerman, 2017). A college acceptance letter is usually a conditional offer, and there is so much effort that a student has to put in to keep being a student in a given school. The student has to keep their grades higher when accepted and follow the institution’s code of conduct to the letter. Social media created an avenue where anyone can air their thoughts and views on any given issue. However, the same platform also poses severe consequences to both the students and institutions (Education Week, 2017). The ten students’ to whom Harvard revoked their admission letters were prospective members of the Harvard family. They traded sexually explicit memes and racist messages that targeted the minority groups in a private Facebook group chat titled “Harvard memes for horny bourgeois teen.” These seemingly malicious students exchanged images mocking sexual assault, the Holocaust, and children’s deaths (Zimmerman, 2017). Moreover, some of them joked about how child abuse was sexually arousing. For example, the imaginary hanging of a Mexican youngster was dubbed “pinata time” by one of the students.

Based on the foregoing, these views portray the referred students’ thoughts, perspectives, and moral character. Harvard University has a mission to educate citizens and citizen-leaders for society. Future leaders are inspired to strive toward a more just, fair, and promising world. However, leaders possess personal traits that any institution cannot instil. These students showed racist and selfish qualities that no leader should possess, let alone a normal citizen. Being associated with the institution means that they act concerning the institution’s code of conduct as they represent it. Their actions were indefensible, and the administration was right to penalize them.

While humour is appreciated on social media, some topics such as child abuse should not be joked about. The students could be characterized as violent, perverts, paedophiles, sadists, and racists. These are not characters that any institution would want to be affiliated with. America fights these vices daily, and allowing them to study and be future leaders would negatively affect the highly respected institution.

To conclude, Harvard had every right to revoke the students’ admission letters. The student has to retain the letter until graduation. It is usually a provisional letter that can be rescinded due to failed grades, criminal activities, and other aspects like immorality. The ten students displayed a narcissistic nature by posting obscene images and joking about child abuse and racism. The institution does not have to explain its action since it has to educate future leaders and other professionals for society. Students should be careful about what they post on social media as it can cost their education life. Schools like Harvard have to monitor the students’ interactions to identify potential lawbreakers and revoke their admissions.

**References**

Education Week. (2017). *Snapchat and Schools - Monitoring What Students Post Online - YouTube*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVTm9hFicXE

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