


5 Whistleblowers or hacktivists? [DIFFERENTIATION]


Text A

 **Hacking** is an illegal criminal activity whereby criminals use a computer to gain unauthorized access to data in a system.

Whistleblowing is a legal activity that constitutes exposing any kind of information or activity that is deemed illegal, unethical or constitutes a risk to individuals or the general public. However, if the whistleblowers are hacking in order to expose the illegal or unethical activity, does it make the act of hacking more acceptable to our society as it rides on the back of "the greater good"? As in true Robin Hood style, stealing from the rich in order to give to the poor is OK. But is it? Isn't it a case of legal double standards?

"The Very Fine Line between Hacking and Whistleblowing", Elad Ben-Meir, 2016.


Text C

 The 3 names that come to mind are Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden, and Lauri Love. Chelsea was in the military when he leaked his documents to Wikileaks. He was convicted of being a traitor but later set free for releasing classified documents which disclosed war crimes by the US. Edward Snowden is a whistleblower who showed us all how the government is spying on us and violating our 4th amendment rights to privacy. Lauri Love is a hacktivist who will be going on trial for also gaining data by hacking into a US database. All 3 are considered criminals in the US.

Is disclosing a scandal really a crime? If whistleblowers, hacktivists, and leakers did not exist, would governments be held accountable for the misconduct they hide behind closed doors? Are laws too strict on these individuals?

"Whistleblowers, Hacktivists and Leakers: Is There a Difference?", Angelfox, 2018.

Text B

 "Arguing that you don't care about the right to privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say."

"My sole motive is to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them."

Quotes by Edward Snowden.

You are in charge of one text.

1 What is the main idea in this text? Be ready to sum it up in a few sentences.

 **Workbook p. 46**

2 Do you agree with this idea? Why?

Useful vocabulary:

I agree / disagree with...

I have to say that... / I must admit that...

To be perfectly honest...

Let's talk this out!

Group work

Share your findings with your classmates and learn about the other texts.

[MEDIATION]

3 What are the similarities and differences between them?

4 Together, use the main ideas of each text to create one argument in favour or against whistleblowers and hacktivists.

Useful vocabulary:

All things considered...

It all comes down to...

If I had to keep only one thing here, it would be...

Activities 4 5

Over to you!

What you need to know

Imagine you have just got a job at a new agency and you are writing your first report on the symbols of Anonymous. Research their mask and their logo and brief your colleagues about it.