Thursday 2:30pm Group 3: Topic 2, In Favour

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**Introduction:**

Australia is one of the last countries to receive media releases, particularly movies and TV shows. This is due to a lower population comparatively, which means a lower market share. Because of this, many people illegally download this media in order to have access to it at the same time as the rest of the world. We believe that it is acceptable to pirate media as it enforces equality and provides access for all as it is released elsewhere.

The following are our arguments supporting piracy as Australians.

**Supporting Arguments:**

**Argument 1** - With the world being so well connected nowadays with social media and the internet, it is easy to unintentionally come across spoilers, so the only way to avoid this would to pirate the movies/shows/books in order to be up to date and ensure that we are still able to enjoy the media as intended, without spoilers ruining the experience months later.

**Argument 2** - Streaming services all make use of region-locking, which means that even if people in Australia are subscribed and paying, they may not receive the content as it is released. In Australia networks generally own exclusive rights to media. This results in the requirement of many subscriptions to have access to media, which becomes extremely expensive. It is unreasonable to expect consumers to subscribe to a whole service just for one piece of media and to be denied access due to region-locking.

**Argument 3** - Piracy can help push the industry to release media in a more timely manner. This has been proven in South Korea where they generally get movies and TV shows before any other country. Often population can come into play here too as higher population results in higher market share. As Australia has a very small population we are often at the bottom of the list and media is released extremely delayed. If media was released simultaneously worldwide, pirating would become much less enticing and less media would be leaked from Korean sources.

**Opposing Arguments:**

Piracy will damage the industry resulting in the companies who produce the media to lose revenue. This will over time reduce the amount of media released and has the potential to destroy the entire industry.

When downloading pirated media, the user can unintentionally infect their device with spyware, viruses or ransomware. This will not happen if the user obtains the media in a legal manner.

**Responses:**

**1 -** While piracy can damage the industry, creators need to release inclusively if they wish to combat privacy, rather than releasing to specific countries with priority and expecting the lesser prioritised countries to pay the same or possibly more for the delayed media.

**2 -** As stated, piracy can result in devices being infected with malware, but legal means of acquiring media can also bear this risk. The idea that it will infect your device results from the fact that there are no regulations around the channels used to acquire pirated media, which can result in an increased likelihood however, it’s still very possible with legally obtained media.