[remove/replace **anything** in the brackets *and* the brackets too]

**STAGE 2: TEMPLATE & GUIDELINES**

**Introduction**

Cyber-bullying, an activity that once surged the new age of the internet, is now nonexistent. The hurt people felt when someone said something bad about them is completely gone. People tend to move on from events that don't really hurt or engage, and that's become the reality of the internet. Hiding behind a screen and typing hate messages is no longer a serious issue.

**My Claim**

Cyber-bullying is something that was taken too seriously in the past and has been completely reduced to simple, ineffective trolling.

**Importance**

More often than not, people against the prominent use of Facebook and other social media sites use cyber-bullying as their go to counter argument. However, they have to realize that their argument is otudated because cyber-bullying is not a big issue.

**Reason 1**

We live in the age of the internet, where social connections are easily understood by everyone.

**Details**

As Jeff Reiman, from Observer points out, "It’s easy to attack people on the Internet. Critics can act out against you at a distance 'safe' for them without having to see how it makes you feel" (Reiman 2015). People say mean things on the internet all the time, whether the platform is YouTube, Twitter, or Facebook. No one takes it at face value because cyber-bullying has become a thing of the past.

**Counter-arguments to my reason**

Not everyone knows how to deal with bullying and some are greatly affected by what others say about them online.

**Rebuttal**

Those who are easily affected by others' irrelevant comments should stay out of areas where criticism is involved, and they should know that the web is open to massive amount of comments. Patricia Agatston, an author on a cyber-bullying information site says, "One thing that parents can do is to set basic guidelines with their children around the appropriate use of technology and treating others with respect both online and offline" (Agatston 2011). Understanding that everyone has different attitudes and opinions is key to using the internet.

**Reason 2**

This idea of trolling has become so big on the internet, that it has basically washed away cyber-bullying.

**Details**

When someone gets called names on the internet, or are trying to get tricked into doing something, it's immediately classified as trolling and everyone laughs about it.

**Counter-arguments to my reason**

It's never okay to put others down even if it is just trolling. People are affected by words and it hurts them. Younger kids who don't know enough yet would be greatly affected by the things others say about them.

**Rebuttal**

From experience, most of the cyber-bullying online comes from younger kids who think it's funny to call people things in secrecy. They don't think about their actions, and they mostly say these things to older kids who often ignore them. No one gets bullied in these situations. Elise Moreau, from about tech says, "Being trolled, or the act of trolling, is something we all have to deal with increasingly as the Internet becomes more social" (Moreau). The increase of internet users will increase the number of people who like to do these things and that's something people need to understand.

**Reason 3**

Cyber-bullying will never be big because of the enormity of people who fight back.

**Details**

When someone gets called some ugly word (typically a racist or homophobic slur) on YouTube, there's instantly a counter argument of more words and slurs, creating a fight where both parties don't take into consideration what the other is saying. The only thing that matters is winning the argument to not look dumb in front of other users. Because of this, cyber-bullying just doesn't exist.

**Counter-arguments to my reason**

This kind of thing makes others think it's okay to say mean things to people and it'll create a vicious cycle of hate. People will just start to call each other ignorant slurs without thinking and it will turn into bullying certain people.

**Rebuttal**

Never take anything someone says at face value. That is something all internet users understand when surfing. People hate for the sake of getting reactions out of people and the reason the block button was implemented was to block communication from people who were being rude. There are so many options that people know about when it comes to cyber defense.

**Connections**

Due to the enormity of people who willingly fight back, cyber-bullying just isn't an issue anymore. They think of other comments on the internet as people being nasty and rude, and aren't affected by it.

**Conclusion**

They prove that cyber-bullying is almost extinct. People who even attempt cyber bullying are just ignored and blocked. Just as there are options to talk to people, there are options to block, and mute them, effectively creating a barrier in which they can't cross.

**Citations**

Patricia Agatston, 2011, Cyber Bullying: What's the Big Deal? Retrieved November 9, 2015, from <http://www.puresight.com/cyberbullying/cyber-bullying-whats-the-big-deal.html>

Elise Moreau, What is Internet Trolling? Retrieved November 9, 2015, from <http://webtrends.about.com/od/internet-culture/a/what-is-internet-trolling.html>

Jeff Reiman, May 2015, How to Respond to Internet Rage. (2015, December). Retrieved November 9, 2015, from <http://observer.com/2015/05/how-to-respond-to-internet-rage/>