

MAKING CLAIMS



DEFINE CLAIM

- a statement that asserts a belief or truth



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Read the following letters to the editor from BYU's *The Digital Universe* and identify the claim in each argument.
 - Marriage on the Mind
 - “Dating is for more reasons than just marriage, though that does play an important role. Dating is also for friendship and to have a good time. Most importantly, I think, dating is for learning what you value in the opposite gender and for learning about yourself.”
 - Suggestive Reading Material
 - “In the future, please do a better job at managing what finds its way on the shelves.”
 - Procrastination Affects More Than Grades
 - “Procrastination affects health, sociality, schoolwork and memories. These can be prevented by halting this lifestyle.”
 - Leggings: Fashion or Faux Pas?
 - “You would be doing the student body, the city of Provo and future generations a favor by opting to wear real pants.”



WHICH CLAIMS ARE THE MOST AND LEAST EFFECTIVE? WHY?

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IS THERE A COMMON LANGUAGE?

- Marriage on the Mind

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- “Procrastination affects health, sociality, schoolwork and memories. These can be prevented by halting this lifestyle.”

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NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

- Write a letter to the editor of Fremont's *Paw Print* in which you examine a school-related issue.
 - To receive full credit, you must:
 - underline your claim.
 - use several paragraphs.
 - write 200-250 words.
 - type your letter.
 - include a title.

DUE: OCT 6/7





**WITH GREAT BEARD
COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!**



**SHAVING THE FACE ROBS A MAN
OF HIS INDIVIDUALITY AND FORCES HIM INTO
A POVERTY OF WORLDLY CONFORMITY**

Beards Are Natural

Sporting paper beards and, in some cases, real facial hair, some 50 BYU students rode through the streets of Provo Friday night protesting BYU's Beard Band. Their mantra: "Bike for beards!" These students delivered a signed petition to the Honor Code Office requesting that the university reconsider its long standing prohibition on facial hair because the rule is "particularly outdated." As a graduate of BYU and—more importantly—a member of the bearded community, I wish I could have joined my fellow comrades in their righteous protest defending their natural right to grow facial hair.

Hair on a man's face is completely natural, and, therefore, it should be permissible. What would happen if the absurd shaving standards were applied equally to female students as they were to male students? Just like men's facial hair, because some find women's leg and armpit hair unbecoming—though completely natural—it should be banned, too. Before a female could take a test at the testing center, she, just like her male counterpart, should have to undergo a rigorous examination of her hair. If it is determined that her legs and underarms are not "clean-shaven," she will be promptly dismissed until she returns and is in harmony with the Honor Code.

This scenario is ridiculous and will never happen. But it happens to men at BYU all too often. Brigham Young, a man of God and the founder of BYU, supported his natural right to grow his facial hair. So did Jesus. Would they be turned away from BYU, too?



The Antiquated Beard Ban

According to the BYU Honor Code, male students may grow side burns so long as they don't "extend below the earlobe or onto the cheek;" and men may wear moustaches so long as they are "neatly trimmed" and they do "not extend beyond or below the corners of the mouth." With the exceptions of sideburns and moustaches, facial hair is prohibited.

The ban on beards (and long hair for men) goes back to the 70s when, according to Dallin Oaks, the president of the university of the time, beards were linked to rebellion and revolution, and when beards were a symbol of hippy and drug culture. Notwithstanding, during the decade of the disco, sideburns and moustaches were in vogue and readily accepted in conservative circles. Subsequently, sideburns and moustaches were allowed at BYU.

But today sideburns and moustaches are no longer associated with conservative dress; shaggy whiskers on the sides of the face and a wiry patch of hair above the upper lip are now the trademarks of a creep. However, well-groomed beards are now widely accepted as conservative business dress (think of Steve Jobs). Despite these modern interpretations, BYU still clings to its antiquated rules. Male students can acceptably roam the halls of BYU looking like disheveled creeps, but they cannot don well-groomed beards looking like professionals. BYU needs to update its Honor Code, allowing men to wear "neatly trimmed" beards and at least reconsider its policy on moustaches.

