

No reason for iBoss to block Sparknotes

Sparknotes is a website that contains thousands of summaries of chapters of various types of books. Most students are probably aware that Sparknotes and other, similar, websites, have been blocked by the school WiFi, even though many find this measure unnecessary or downright counterproductive for a variety of reasons.

For starters, blocking Sparknotes from the WiFi cannot actually stop people from accessing it, as long as they have an iPhone (or any other device that can access the internet without WiFi). Seeing as it is so easy to get to Sparknotes anyways, why should the school even bother blocking it? Does it not just make students' lives just slightly more inconvenient for no particular reason?

However the real question is why the school looks down on these websites in the first place. Generally, the explanation teachers provide for this is something along the lines of: "Students will just memorize stuff from Sparknotes and they won't read their books, thus causing them to not properly learn the material."

It is undeniable that students are likely to choose Sparknotes over books. However, that does prompt the question of whether this issue actually matters. As a rule, Sparknotes is generally most useful in English classes due to the literature-based core of the website. So why do teachers prefer students to read books? Many teachers claim that kids will retain knowledge read from books better than things acquired from Sparknotes. This may have some truth to it, but in all honesty, any difference between the two is probably minor. The student should be responsible enough to determine if they want to learn the material or not. Teachers should trust their students and their teaching over concerns over something as miniscule as Sparknotes.

So if retention isn't an issue, then what is? Perhaps it is because Sparknotes makes things too easy. On top of plot summary, the site also provides in-depth information about symbolism and such in the sections. So maybe teachers don't want students on Sparknotes so they can teach them the material themselves.

Regardless of the motivations behind the repression of Sparknotes, we students hope that it will soon become much more convenient to access the site on campus.

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This is what many students see when they type in "Sparknotes.com" or other restricted websites like "Slither.io". This is not only uncalled for, it simply makes no sense.