

“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.” This quote from Albert Einstein illustrates the perpetuating reality of, well, reality! We must not avoid confrontation when it comes to preparing America’s next generation of leaders. This is why I must strongly negate the resolution at hand. Resolved: “Little kids need to be protected from the harshness and cruelty of the real world.”

Why do we permit kids to grow and learn for several years under false illusions while the harshness of the “Real World” is so cruelly ready to pounce on them? It’s simple: American parents are scared of the world they live in and can’t bear to make it tough on their kids. No child can learn without something being tough for them. If all work regardless of quality is to be exalted, and all questionable events to be shunned or shrouded in mystery, how can you expect the next generation to grow and become competent and enthusiastic contributing members of society. Why are kids expected to learn to cope with tough situations or bad news if it is always eradicated from their view or denounced as something distant and unimportant to them? Imagine if the government were to mislead the citizenry about the state of our economy and consistently reject the importance of the people being savvy consumers. The populace would develop and assimilate into a culture of ignorance too dire to rectify.

Languages, manners, posture, and life lessons are all best taught at a young age. So why not start with the harsh, cruel, and inconvenient realities of the real world? Because life won’t always be as easy as getting a sticker on every homework assignment or giving that show-and-tell presentation. America cannot, should not, and will not condone the senseless censorship of the real world under the false pretense of protection. Nobody ever said growing up was supposed to be easy.