

WFSU Online Comment Moderation Policy

WFSU supports strong web communities and promotes discussion online. We encourage civility and want to create an environment that encourages participation. Comments will be moderated by the site managers and reporters. We will leave up all comments on the substance of the material or news presented, including critical observations, allowing the readers and the author respond to a comment in the open.

Our newsroom follows a policy very similar to NPR's for comments on our website. We'll use those same rules to govern discussions on Facebook.

<http://help.npr.org/npr/consumer/kbdetail.asp?kbid=184>

In the interest of making it easy for readers to comment, reporters and WFSU staff will typically moderate the comments after they are posted to the site. We reserve the right not to publish rumors, allegations, conspiracy theories and other information that we deem to be false or unsubstantiated. Moderators reserve the right to take down a comment that

- includes personal information (i.e. phone numbers, addresses) of someone mentioned in the comment;
- is promotion or spam;
- is an obvious form letter or petition from a campaign or advocacy group to encourage an action, like calling your congressman;
- is a personal attack;
- includes profanity, name calling, libel, defamation, hate speech, comparisons to notorious dictators, personal attacks, name calling, comments about someone's mother, etc.

Additionally

- Under no circumstances should you post anything that could be taken as threatening, harassing, bullying, obscene, pornographic, sexist or racist.
- **Don't use obscenities.**
- **Do not "feed" the trolls** (http://www.npr.org/blogs/inside/2008/12/i_had_a_long_conversation.html). We encourage community members to report abuse by trolls. But we also ask that you not engage with trolls in the comment threads. Reacting to their provocations is exactly what they want. If we see you feeding a troll, we will remove both the troll's comments and your responses.