# PIC- WBC

## 1NC

### Don’t Pray 1NC

#### Text: The US ought not restrict free speech on college campuses except they should censor the free speech rights of the Westboro Baptist Church

#### They protest the deaths of soldiers because of their sexuality

**CEB 11** [Current Editorial Board, 3-16-2011, "Does the Westboro Baptist Church have the right to free speech? – The Current," No Publication, [http://thecurrent-online.com/opinions/does-the-westboro-baptist-church-have-the-right-to-free-speech/]e](http://thecurrent-online.com/opinions/does-the-westboro-baptist-church-have-the-right-to-free-speech/%5De) NB

The Westboro Baptist Church, famous for picketing funerals of soldiers believed to be/admittedly homosexual and claiming their deaths are punishment for the sins of America, have overstepped the lines. Freedom of speech means nothing anymore, apparently. The United States was founded upon the concept that individuals may freely practice their religions, and may freely speak their minds. In this light, those who claim Westboro has overstepped suddenly becomes a rather moot point. The problem is that to censor Westboro calls into question several other instances of overuse of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. Rather than simply attack Westboro, maybe the concept of freedom of speech really ought to be examined. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech to all Americans, no matter their viewpoints, as long as this expression is done in a public fashion. In addition, Westboro is a religious group which believes homosexuality to be morally incorrect. Thus, the group is simply expressing their beliefs. The Supreme Court agrees, as the most recent case, involving the Snyder family, was ruled in favor of the First Amendment. It is absolutely appalling that Americans are striking out against the very freedoms which the Founding Fathers fought so valiantly to defend and institute within this nation. Those who disagree with the nation’s actions in foreign affairs are free to speak their minds, no matter how slanderous or belittling their views may be. Far left groups across the country daily speak out rather violently against this country’s daily operations, calling into question the very moral fiber of its leaders, yet are not called into question as violating “freedom of speech.” To allow such radical groups on the far left this liberty, yet remove a similar liberty from a far right group such as Westboro, simply because their objections differ, is discrimination through use of one of the very founding principles of the United States. “Sticks and stones may break my bones” is really something the American people ought to examine more thoroughly before getting pissed about every little disagreement they have. This world is not homogeneous in its views. There will always be disagreements in views on topics such as homosexuality and governmental operation, and those unwilling to accept this really need a reality check. Mankind grows and develops due to the differences of opinion which are daily expressed by its communities. Without differences of opinion, progress would never be made, and growth could not occur. Without groups such as Westboro reminding humanity that freedom of speech is essential for growth, it may very well come to pass that humanity is no longer capable of growing as a unit. Yes, Westboro’s views are powerful, and often hurtful to those they picket against. However, America abides by the law that every citizen is allowed to express their viewpoints without discrimination by their peers. It really is not that difficult to ignore a view which one does not agree with, or which damages one’s view on life. According to the law of the nation, Westboro is not outside their bounds. Those who wish to cast a different ballot may want to aim their assaults elsewhere, or maybe make efforts to make true changes in the nation’s laws, rather than simply complaining.

#### They protest against homosexuals on college campuses during commencements

Delmore 14 [Erin Delmore, 4-24-2014, "Westboro Baptist Church to protest 'filthy' college grads," MSNBC, <http://www.msnbc.com/all/westboro-baptist-church-protest-filthy-college-grads>] NB

The Kansas-based religious group best known for picketing military funerals has set its sights on what [it’s calling](http://www.godhatesfags.com/fliers/20140413_Colorado-State-Univ-Grad.pdf) the “filthy, base, illiterate, Godless, Bible-deprived, God-hating, God-hated, without-hope young people” who are set to graduate from college this spring. The Westboro Baptist Church is preparing to stage at least two protests at university commencements on May 17, first at Kansas’s Fort Hays State University in the morning, then, after traveling by caravan, at Colorado State University in Fort Collins by 4:15 p.m. local time. In a [flier](http://www.godhatesfags.com/fliers/20140413_Colorado-State-Univ-Grad.pdf) posted online, the group rails against “students graduating from universities in doomed-America this year” for “their aggressive enabling and embracing of fags and same sex marriage,” along with “their filthy manner of life” and “their utter ignorance of the Bible.” “This is one stupid generation of people that are being raised in this country,” Sam Phelps-Roper, a church elder based in Topeka, Kansas, told msnbc. “It’s been a precipitous decline in work ethic and any kind of understanding. It’s a lazy, self-indulgent generation of people.” Phelps-Roper said that the group also plans to protest first lady Michelle Obama’s commencement speech before the USD 501 school district in the Kansas capital city that same day. Parents of graduating students in the district are [up in arms](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/kansas-speech-michelle-obama-draws-complaints) over Obama’s appearance – which is intended to mark the 60th anniversary of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, which ruled segregation in schools unconstitutional. The criticism centers on frustration that Obama could overshadow the students’ achievements and limit the number of tickets allotted to each one. With colleges and universities across the nation set to honor their graduating classes this May, the Westboro Baptist Church could expand its picket roster. “There’s a lot of time between now and then, so we’ll see what arises,” Phelps-Roper said. The group is targeting graduations because colleges are “a breeding ground for filth,” according to Phelps-Roper.