

## McMaster president endorses heckler's veto

Letter to the editors of the *Silhouette*, McMaster University's student newspaper (unpublished)  
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Your president just endorsed the heckler's veto.

“It is extremely regrettable that the events of last Friday do not reflect the standard of academic debate that we would aspire to model on our campus but this does not mean that as an institution we should ever seek to limit the right of members of our community and visitors to our campus to engage in peaceful protest. In the event that the tactics employed by such protestors violate the laws of our land, or the codes of conduct of our community, appropriate sanctions can and will be applied, but our commitment to academic freedom requires that, except in the most extreme cases, the cancellation of events, or the exclusion or removal of particular individuals will not be our response.”

This says that disruptive protest is protected speech under academic freedom. If you wish to shout down your professor during class, go ahead, you're simply doing what academics at McMaster may do.

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/article/academic-freedom-and-the-role-of-the-academy-an-open-letter-to-the-mcmaster-community/>

Incredible!