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**As Trump Goes on a Twitter Rampage, Melania Trump Announces a Solo Trip to Africa**

**Melania Trump Calls for Online Civility as President Attacks Critic**

**The first lady warned of the “destructive and harmful” uses of social media as part of her “Be Best” campaign. After she spoke, President Trump went on Twitter to call John Brennan, the former C.I.A. director, a “hack.”**

By [Katie Rogers](http://www.nytimes.com/by/katie-rogers)

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 ROCKVILLE, Md. — Under the banner of her “Be Best” campaign, Melania Trump, the first lady, told a group of cyberbullying prevention experts on Monday that social media “can be destructive and harmful when used incorrectly.”

Just after she spoke, President Trump unleashed a barrage of tweets in which he called the former director of the C.I.A. a “hack” and [mocked the effectiveness](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1031550517552603138) of the Justice Department, among other digital insults. Later on Monday, Mrs. Trump added to a day of dissonant messaging from the Trump White House when her office announced a solo trip for the first lady this fall to Africa — a continent whose countries and citizens her husband has disparaged with coarse language.

Mrs. Trump, whose policy director left the White House a few weeks ago, [has kept a light public schedule](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/17/us/politics/melania-trump-first-lady.html) in promoting her child-focused campaign since she launched it in May. Her visit to the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention session, held at the Health Resources and Services Administration in a Washington suburb, was one of the more visible efforts that Mrs. Trump has made on behalf of the campaign.

“In today’s global society, social media is an inevitable part of our children’s daily lives,” Mrs. Trump said, reading from prepared remarks. “It can be used in many positive ways, but can also be destructive and harmful when used incorrectly.”

The first lady has stuck with cyberbullying prevention as a signature issue despite Mr. Trump’s combative posture on Twitter — [he has attacked at least 487 people](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/01/28/upshot/donald-trump-twitter-insults.html), companies or institutions since declaring his candidacy for the presidency. His targets have ranged from the department store Macy’s to Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel investigating the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia.

Shortly before Mrs. Trump departed the White House for the meeting in Maryland, Mr. Trump attacked the “disgraced and discredited” Mr. Mueller and "his whole group of Angry Democrat Thugs” for extensively interviewing Donald F. McGahn II, the White House counsel.

Disgraced and discredited Bob Mueller and his whole group of Angry Democrat Thugs spent over 30 hours with the White House Councel, only with my approval, for purposes of transparency. Anybody needing that much time when they know there is no Russian Collusion is just someone....

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [August 20, 2018](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1031503298967363586?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“They are enjoying ruining people’s lives and REFUSE to look at the real corruption on the Democrat side — the lies, the firings, the deleted emails and soooo much more,” Mr. Trump wrote in a pair of tweets disparaging the investigation. “Mueller’s Angry Dems are looking to impact the election. They are a National Disgrace!”

Over the weekend, the president sent several angry tweets, spurred by a report by The New York Times that revealed Mr. McGahn’s extensive cooperation with the special counsel’s office. And days ago, Mr. Trump called a former White House official, [Omarosa Manigault Newman, “that dog”](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/14/us/politics/trump-omarosa-dog.html) and a “crazed, crying lowlife” on Twitter after she alleged in a publicity campaign for her new book that his mental state had deteriorated.

The president’s tweets were not discussed during the summit the first lady attended. Instead, Lauren Culbertson, who manages public policy for Twitter, touted the platform’s anti-bullying tools as Mrs. Trump sat in the audience.

“We have strong rules against abusive behavior,” Ms. Culbertson said, “One beautiful thing about Twitter is that people come to Twitter to find community and have conversations.”

Another running theme at the cyberbullying summit was the importance of adults understanding how bad behavior on social media could affect children, and how adults can be good digital role models.

“Let’s face it,” Mrs. Trump said during her remarks, “most children are more aware of the benefits and pitfalls of social media than some adults, but we still need to do all we can to provide them with information and tools for successful and safe online habits.”

Despite her husband’s proclivity to use the platform to target individuals, Mrs. Trump has held firm to her commitment to help end cyberbullying.

As Mrs. Trump listened to the panel, the president sent another tweet. He called John O. Brennan, the former director of the C.I.A. whose security clearance he revoked last week, the “worst C.I.A. director in our country’s history” and a “political hack.”

I hope John Brennan, the worst CIA Director in our country’s history, brings a lawsuit. It will then be very easy to get all of his records, texts, emails and documents to show not only the poor job he did, but how he was involved with the Mueller Rigged Witch Hunt. He won’t sue!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [August 20, 2018](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1031544711717302272?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Everybody wants to keep their Security Clearance, it’s worth great prestige and big dollars, even board seats, and that is why certain people are coming forward to protect Brennan. It certainly isn’t because of the good job he did! He is a political “hack.”

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [August 20, 2018](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1031547390644420613?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Mr. Brennan has hit back at the president in recent days, [writing in The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/16/opinion/john-brennan-trump-russia-collusion-security-clearance.html) that the president was attempting “to scare into silence others who might dare to challenge him.”

Mrs. Trump and her aides have repeatedly acknowledged the conflict between her messages and those of her husband.

“I am well aware that people are skeptical of me discussing this topic,” Mrs. Trump [said as she participated in a similar panel](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/20/us/politics/trump-melania-bullying-cybersafety.html) in March. “I have been criticized for my commitment to tackling this issue, and I know that will continue. But it will not stop me from doing what I know is right. I am here with one goal: helping children and our next generation.”

Since arriving in Washington, the first lady has acted independently of her husband on a number of occasions. Mrs. Trump’s office told The Associated Press on Monday that she would visit several countries in Africa in October. She will go without her husband, who has used disparaging language to refer to immigrants from some African countries.

“We are a global society, and I believe it is through open dialogue and the exchanging of ideas that we have a real opportunity to learn from one another,” the first lady said in a statement.

Stephanie Grisham, the first lady’s communications director, reiterated on Monday much of what the first lady said in March — “She is aware of the criticism, but it will not deter her from doing what she feels is right,” she wrote in an email — and added that “the president is proud of her commitment to children and encourages her in all that she does.”

A version of this article appears in print on

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, Section A, Page 15 of the New York edition with the headline: As Trump Rages on Twitter, First Lady Announces a Solo Trip to Africa.

**Quelques rappels de méthodologie**

**L’introduction**

L’introduction est là pour **commencer avec une accroche**, « the hook », qui vous permettra de faire la différence. Cette accroche est **de préférence une citation, un fait d’actualité**. On enchaine avec une petite mise en contexte, et on soulève l’intérêt du texte, que l’on souligne par la présence d’une problématique. Le tout doit être **court mais complet et logique.**

**Le résumé**

Le résumé n’a pas besoin d’être linéaire. Ici, l’article est long, et fait des allers-retours dans les tweets de Trump. Inutile de tous les citer, mais il convient de garder une logique de résumé. Enfin, je vous conseille de terminer le résumé par une phrase résumant elle-même l’idée essentielle du texte, pour montrer que vous ne vous éparpillez pas : soyez dynamiques lorsque vous l’énoncez. De quoi ensuite enchainer sur votre commentaire en ayant compris le challenge principal du texte.

**Le commentaire**

C’est la **partie la plus importante de votre exposé. Le commentaire est la majorité du temps en 3 parties.** Je vous conseille de faire une première partie plutôt descriptive sur la situation, une deuxième partie sur les solutions à apporter et les problèmes soulevés et enfin une dernière partie sur les conséquences. Ici, on a cherché à faire un plan en 3 parties. Comme pour un plan de dissertation, il faut faire en sorte que les trois parties aient un vrai sens ensemble. **Le contenu permet au jury d’avoir de la matière pour un débat en reprise.**

**La conclusion**

Vous devez vraiment éviter de faire un simple résumé de tout ce que vous venez de dire. Vous pouvez par contre résumer en une phrase le problème que le texte cachait. Elle peut se composer d’une citation si cela n’a pas déjà été le cas en introduction. Dans l’idéal, il faut ouvrir sur le futur, et surtout donner votre avis, pour que le jury connaisse votre position.

**Déroulement d’une colle**

(Intro)

« Donald Trump was very … **present** » were Hillary Clinton’s words used to describe Donald Trump’s performance during an October 2016 presidential debate. Fully using any means of communication to **depreciate his opponents’** words has always been at the center of Trump’s strategy in communication. From mimicking his opponents to publicly insulting them on Twitter, Donald Trump has tried it all to gain attention from his electors, and has forged his success in presenting himself as the Anti Establishment Candidate. In the meantime, his wife Melania hasn’t shown support to her husband’s tweets : **can this paradox hamper the White House’s diplomacy ?**

This article from the NY times intends to establish and comprehend the numerous realities that emerge from this modern way of communication.

(Résumé)

**The article starts off by** presenting Melania Trump’s newest campaign, « Be Best », a program aimed at improving our children’s future, which the First Lady tries to expand with conferences on cyber-bullying. **Coincidentally**, her husband immediately retaliated with a series of tweets aimed at discrediting the director of the CIA, calling him a « hack ». **As a consequence** of his discriminatory comments on the « shithole countries », Trump hasn’t been welcomed on Melania’s trip to Africa next fall. **Therefore,** the bond in the presidential couple appears more than ever feeble.

**As the article goes on**, we progressively get familiar with Melania’s efforts for future generations. Her campaign aims at assuring an appropriate transition for younger kids on social media, a field which has paradoxically been used by her husband to attack 487 people, recently blaming the special counsel investigating the Trump campaign’s bonds with Russia for unfair and biased treatment in terms of political investigation.

**In parallel,** the Twitter’s head department, represented by Lauren Culbertson, has consciously ignored Donald Trump’s activity to focus on Melania’s efforts, intending not to undermine Twitter’s credibility as a firm. **On her side**, Melania wants to ignore the skeptics and focus on her own job, despite her husband’s aggressive comments, and prepare for her own mission in Africa.

**So the main idea that this article brings up** is that social media and education are at the center of Melania’s campaign as a first lady, which causes some friction with her husband’s comments.

(Commentaire)

In order to fully understand the importance that this article gives to the couple’s newest decisions, **I would first argue that** education in social media is a crucial point in Melania’s program, to then see in a **second part** that this effort is slowed down with her husband’s overwhelming behavior, **therefore** making it possible to situate her role in the history of First Ladies in a third and final part.

**I) Social media education is at the center of Melania’s campaign …**

First of all, understanding the social media is a contemporary challenge : on the internet, kids are easily exposed to talking with strangers. Even if campaigns have already emerged against child abusers, everywhere increasingly more children are victims of child predators. But more less obvious challenges emerge from the surface. Mass shootings are often announced on the internet, and encouraged by obscure Facebook groups. The abusive use of social media and the « thumbs up culture » has rapidly and quietly encouraged young kids to starve themselves, or deteriorate their body to look like their favorite celebrities. Also, the hyper dependance to the social media also draws us closer to even more difficult parents/kids relationships and eye diseases. Let’s not also forget that, just like in David Fincher’s film *The Social Media*, that the social media’s initial aim was to elect the Uni’s most attractive student, highlighting and foreshadowing the cult of the body that the social media has lead to.

Therefore the technology itself is revolutionary and useful, but the way it has to be used has to be thought over. Proposing courses in the early years of school, but also forcing parents to educate their kids on the upcoming dangers are priorities. Understanding the real coding behind a social media could also be an encouraging proposal, which Tim Cook has already intended to develop in his « everybody can code » curriculum. Melania’s efforts answer an obvious but needed priority. I personally think that parents will feel more concerned in two or three more generations.

**However, and this is where I come to my second point,**

**II) Her husband’s behavior slows down her effort**

Donald Trump’s success comes from pressuring and exposing his opponents on the internet. His large audience believes or is left amused and convinced by Donald Trump’s roaring accusations. Making politics from accusations isn’t quite new : in the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy was known for building his political success on accusing communists of witchcraft, which was for example seen on the biopic *Trumbo* starring Bryan Cranston. Therefore, discrediting the opponent is an aggressive and complex way of making politics, which Trump masters.

Melania’s campaign is therefore placed in a difficult position : the first lady has ultimately been seen as Donald’s puppet, so skeptics have criticized Melania’s effort for being too shallow.

But even if it’s a paradox to see Melania at the center of a campaign promoting social media education, I would argue that it only reinforces Melania’s legitimacy, because by not encouraging her husband’s comments, she clearly shows that something has to be done.

Finally, this paradox is a struggle…

**III) Which therefore offers us another consideration of her role as a first lady.**

-Let’s intend to think about where Melania ranks in the First Lady’s hierarchy. As this article highlighted, Melania’s image as a first lady isn’t as shining as it was for her predecessors. Michelle Obama, for example, was a greater ambassador, being a wider icon, and more people, mostly Afro American, identified themselves to Michelle’s profile. Some First Ladies even had a great political responsibility, like Hillary in the 1990s when she was named in the White House as a health representative. When her husband was handicapped in his later years, Eleanor Roosevelt proved herself to be a great ambassador, being present in all of the presidential trips. Even if Jacqueline Kennedy wasn’t present in politics, she still turned out to be one of the most popular first ladies in American history.

**To conclude**, I would argue that the first lady’s popularity will always be linked to the president’s actions. Melania Trump wants to separate herself from her husband’s dynamics, in order to follow the path of historic first ladies. Her effort has to be praised, but will for sure be undermined by her husband’s silly comments on the internet, which he uses as a political force, that might potentially greatly hamper his future political success