

Should Josh Become a YouTube Star?

He says definitely. His mom says no way.



YES

I Will Make You Proud, Mom!

Dear Mom,

You've heard of YouTube, right? Do you know that with nothing more than a smartphone and a dream, any kid can become a STAR? Well, I'd like to introduce you to the next YouTube sensation: ME!

You know I love cooking. Remember the brownies I baked last week? Or the yams I made for Thanksgiving? Who can forget my **stupendous** nachos from our Super Bowl party? (Sorry about the stain on the couch.) Clearly, it's time for me to take my cooking talents out into the world, as the star of my new YouTube series: "Josh Stirs It Up." It will be a hit!

Think of all I will learn. I will be creative. I will write scripts. I will become a great editor. Oh, and I'll learn to make something other than brownies, yams, and nachos. In fact, me becoming a vlogger (that's what they call video bloggers) could be the best thing that ever happens to me—and to you. Some YouTube stars earn \$1 million a year. If I make even a *tenth* of that, you won't have to worry about paying for college. I'll pay!

Then there are the career opportunities. Check out what's happened to these YouTube stars:

- Bethany Mota vlogs about cooking, clothes, and other stuff. She has 8.2 million subscribers, won a Teen Choice Award, and supposedly makes 300,000 bucks a year!!!
- Remember that Fred Figglehorn show? Lucas Cruikshank started it when he was 13, the same age I am. Now he's 21 and has a TV deal with Nickelodeon.

Imagine it, Mom! I could get a TV deal. Or get invited to be on *Chopped*. Now don't start thinking all this fame will ruin me. I'll still be your same lovable son. I'll still do my homework and my chores. (Don't worry. I won't ask you to do the dishes.) So what do you think?

Love,

Josh

P.S. If I get a Teen Choice Award nomination, I'll bring you to the ceremony (if I can't get Katy Perry to go with me—JK).

Bethany Mota did it. So can I!



NO

Sorry, Kiddo. You Aren't Ready.

Dear Josh,

I know in my heart that you will become a professional chef one day if that is what you want. But when it comes to starting your own YouTube channel, my answer is no. You are right that there are a lot of teenage vloggers who have **amassed** huge followings. That is precisely what concerns me. Putting yourself out there on the Internet can lead to a lot of negative attention. A few years ago, a girl named Rebecca Black posted a music video she made called "Friday." She was bullied so relentlessly that she dropped out of school. She even received death threats. And I don't think you're ready to **cope** with that kind of attention.

I have other concerns as well. You say that you won't let vlogging interfere with schoolwork. But do you know how much energy goes into making a single video? Bethany Mota herself has said that a five-minute video can take days to create. And once you make the video, the work doesn't stop. You'll be glued to your phone, checking on your views, poring over comments, responding to fans, and **promoting** yourself on social media. It could easily take over your life.

Then how would you have time to **hone** your skills in the kitchen? You still have a lot to learn. (Yes, the brownies were delicious, but you made them out of a box, hon.) Why not enroll in a cooking class instead? In exchange for your doing a few extra chores around the house, I would be willing to pay for that.

You also seem to believe that creating your own series is automatically **lucrative**. The reality is that few people have YouTube success. And of those who do, few end up making money. Besides, this time in your life is not about money. It's about being a kid, spending time with friends, learning new things, and finding out what you love.

Here's my biggest worry: The stress of being a YouTube star could ruin the very thing you love—cooking.

Love,
Mom

Poor thing!



For Rebecca Black, YouTube was a nightmare.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Directions: Hunt through each letter for the following elements.

1. Underline the **central idea**, or **central claim**.
2. Put a star next to two pieces of **supporting evidence**.
3. Circle the **counterargument**.
4. Put a double star next to the writer's **rebuttal**.

YOU decide: Who made the stronger argument?