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Commenting on *Slate* FAQ

Our moderation policy, how to use the system, and the other mos
frequently asked questions.

Posted Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, at 4:43 PM ET

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How do I comment? Why do I need to create an account for commenting?

In order to post comments on ***Slate*** you need to sign up for a ***Slate*** account or use a
existing Yahoo, Google, Facebook, or Twitter account. To sign up for a ***Slate*** account,
the commenting box at the bottom of the article page, and click "Post" or "Log In/Reg
prompt will ask you to login or sign up for a new account. If it's your first time, either
for a new account or sign in with one of your pre-existing social media accounts. Be s
include a "Display Name" that will be your public name on the site. We require users t
authenticated through a valid account in order to discourage spammers and to general
improve the level of discussion.

Q: Do I have to use a social media account? Will my personal information be compromised?

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You do not have to use a social n
account. Those options are availa
make it easier for readers to log i
our system with pre-registered a
If you don't have a pre-existing s
media account, you can create a
account that won't be attached t
social media site. If you do use a
Google, Facebook, Twitter, or Yal
account your data will still be pri

Q: Can I change my username

You can change your username b
into the "Edit Profile" page in the
right-hand corner of the screen, v
the box that says "Display Name," and then selecting "Update My Account."

Q: How do I change my avatar?

You can change your avatar for a ***Slate*** account in the same "Edit Profile" page where
able to edit your username. Once there, select "Change Your Picture" and upload a ne
photo. If you are using a social media account, then the avatar will default to whatever
have chosen for that social media account.

Q: I can't remember my username/password! What do I do?

Go to the "Log In/Register" link in the top right-hand corner of the page and follow th
prompts in the lightbox to recover them. If you don't receive a password, then email
frayeditor@slate.com.

Q: What is Slate's moderation policy?

Here's a quick summary: Don't use offensive or obscene language. Don't spam article
behave disruptively. Don't abuse anyone, including the writers, and don't make threat
impersonate someone else, especially not other readers.

See below for the complete version of these rules.

Q: I posted a comment and it's not appearing on the site. Why not? What should I do?

The post may have been caught in ***Slate***'s spam filter or in an obscenity filter, or it m
that it is in a pre-moderation queue because you are a banned user. Otherwise, it ma
been deleted for violating our moderation policy. If you have a question about why a p
not appearing, please email frayeditor@slate.com.

Q: Do you ban people from commenting? What happens if my account is banr

We do ban people from posting if they violate the moderation policy repeatedly. If you
banned, you will continue to be able to log in to your account, but your posts will be p
a pre-moderation queue where they will stay until they are approved to appear on the
by a moderator.

Q: Can I delete or edit my comments?

We don't allow people to delete or edit their comments, because we don't want to allo
people to disrupt discussions in the middle of a thread.

Q: How do I flag abusive comments?

If you think a post violates ***Slate***'s moderation policy, you can flag the comments for
moderators by pressing the flag button below the comment. You must be logged on in
to flag a comment.

Q: What happened to the Fray?

The Fray, our original reader discussion forum, was disabled once we moved to our ne
content management system. If you have any further questions about the Fray, please
contact frayeditor@slate.com.

**Q: I still have questions about your moderation policies or commenting genera
What should I do?**

Email ***Slate***'s social media editor at frayeditor@slate.com. This is for questions and
comments on how the commenting system works, not for comments about the article
themselves. If you want to talk about a specific post, make sure you include the URL
also include your username.

***Slate's* Commenting Policy**

Slate's in-article commenting system is intended for debating and developing ideas
presented in our magazine.

Slate does not endorse or stand behind the accuracy, truthfulness, or reliability of an
information (including statements of opinion and advice) posted by users and is not
responsible in any manner for any of the content in their posts or for any subsequent
you may take as a result of such posts. Statements made in ***Slate***'s comments reflect
the views of their authors. While we do not, and cannot, review every comment, we re
the right to remove any posts that we deem unacceptable. You remain solely responsi
the content of your posts.

Slate is committed to free expression but expects users to follow a few simple rules. I
post any material that violates the legal rights or privacy of others, including material
defamatory, infringing, obscene, pornographic, abusive, or otherwise unlawful. Remer
you can be held legally liable for what you write in ***Slate***'s comments section.

You may not use the comments to advertise, solicit, promote the purchase of goods o
services, operate or engage in surveys, contests, chain letters, or commercial enterpri
for any other commercial purpose.

Spend a little time following discussions (lurking, if you will) in the comments before
participating. Please try to post messages that relate to the topic at hand and avoid fr
repetitive, or excessively lengthy posts. We ask that you don't unnecessarily antagoni
others and don't represent yourself as another person.

We ask that you be respectful of other posters and your reading audience. Please rem
that messages posted are publicly visible to all visitors of ***Slate***. Comments are best v
posters invest original thought and energy into their writing.

Inappropriate material may be removed or reclassified at any time, for any reason, wi
prior notice or explanation. Readers who engage in a pattern of misconduct or commit
egregious violation of these guidelines may face sanctions including, but not limited to
suspension of their posting privileges and erasure of their entire posting history. While
is committed to respecting your privacy, we reserve the right to report unlawful beha
vandalism of our Web site to your Internet service provider or, in extreme cases, local
enforcement.

Slate's editors have sole discretion to apply any of these sanctions at any time and w
prior notice. Concerns regarding the enforcement of these rules should be directed to
social media editor. ***Slate*** reserves the right to modify these rules at any time.

By participating you agree to be bound by the foregoing moderation policy. Any rights
expressly granted herein are reserved.

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