The debate on whether or not to ban Yik Yak is tricky because there are reasonable arguments for both sides. On the one hand is the argument that the horrific threats made on Yik Yak cannot be offset by any positive that Yik Yak provides (Mach, n.p.). Yet the counter-argument for that is of course that Yik Yak does sometimes do good, as Amanda Hess Argues in her article “Don’t Ban Yik Yak.” In addition, the argument for Yik Yak often includes the position that it is not Yik Yak that causes the problem, but instead the users, and that racist, sexist, and generally awful discourse always finds its way into the open through one medium or another (Hess, n.p.). Yet there is a also a counter argument to this which argues that it is the anonymity of Yik Yak which is the problem. If it were not an anonymous forum, so the argument goes, there would be fewer bullies because they would no longer be able to hide behind their screens (Mach, n.p.). Another line of confrontation on the topic is whether or not Yik Yak has made an effort to stop abuse. There is even debate on this and arguments about whether or not Yik Yak has done enough but the general consensus seems to be that they have made an effort, which is more than most similar companies can say, but it is still not enough (Dewey, n.p., Hess, n.p.).

These are the various different arguments and counter arguments and as I tried to make clear, for almost every argument, there is a counter argument. While one side may have a slight edge on one issue, the other side has the edge on another. I personally think the argument against Yik Yak is slightly more convincing than the argument for it, but nowhere near enough to justify its banning. For something to be banned I think the argument against it must be overwhelming and in this case I simply don’t think that’s the case.

Bibliography

