

THE STATE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT



How much do you know about current First Amendment law?

How far are you willing to go in the name of freedom? Take this quiz and find out.

1. As you know, the First Amendment is part of the U.S. Constitution. To the best of your recollection, which of the specific rights guaranteed by the First Amendment can you name?

2. How much, if at all, does the following statement apply to your school: *My school makes specific efforts to promote First Amendment principles through school activities or policies.*

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A lot | <input type="checkbox"/> Some |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Only a little | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know | |

3. Overall, do you think the students at your school have too much freedom to express themselves, too little freedom to express themselves, or about the right amount of freedom to express themselves while at school?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too much | <input type="checkbox"/> Too little |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Right amount | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

4. Overall, do you think the students at your school have too much religious freedom, too little religious freedom, or about the right amount of religious freedom while at school?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too much | <input type="checkbox"/> Too little |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Right amount | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

For the next set of questions, read each statement and then indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement:

5. *Students in public schools should be allowed to express their own religious views in a class discussion as long as their views are relevant to the topic.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | |

6. *Public school students should be allowed to distribute religious materials at school.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | |

7. *Public school students should be allowed to wear a T-shirt with a message or picture that others may find offensive.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | |

8. *Public school students should be allowed to organize gay/lesbian clubs, even though others may find the club's mission controversial or offensive.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | |

9. *Public school students should be allowed to participate in making decisions about school rules.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mildly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | |

10. Please circle the following statement that comes closest to your own opinion:

- Public school students should be allowed unfiltered access to ALL Web sites on school computers, even if this means they occasionally encounter inappropriate or offensive material.
- Public school students should be allowed unfiltered access to ALL Web sites on school computers, but they should also be required to sign acceptable-use agreements which outline penalties for violations of the school's policy.
- Public schools should install software on school computers that blocks student access to potentially inappropriate or offensive Web sites, even if this means some useful Web sites may be blocked from view.

For the remaining questions, you'll be given a series of First Amendment scenarios. Circle the choice that best reflects your opinion of how the person should react.

11. A newspaper reporter has information that might endanger soldiers, but might also have an impact on the election. Should s/he:

- a. Publish as s/he wishes.
- b. Inform the government and give them 24 hours to protect the soldiers.
- c. Ask the government's permission to publish.
- d. Kill the story.

12. An article is submitted to the student newspaper about a group of mean students. The information is verified, but if it is published some feelings may be hurt. Should the editors:

- a. Publish it.
- b. Take out the names and publish it.
- c. Kill the story.

13. A Muslim student wants to pray during his free period in the corridor outside classrooms. Should the school administration:

- a. Give him permission to pray as he pleases.
- b. Let him pray but insist that he go to a private area.
- c. Refuse him permission.

14. A class is discussing abortion, and one student wants to invite her pastor to come in and comment on the topic.

Should school officials:

- a. Allow the visit.
- b. Allow the visit, but ask the pastor to submit a written script in advance.
- c. Allow the visit, but invite another community figure to offer a contrary perspective.
- d. Deny permission.

15. A group of students wants to hold a pro-life demonstration during lunch in the cafeteria. They want to hang up posters that display the results of an abortion. Should school officials:

- a. Allow the display.
- b. Allow them to set up a table and give out information but not hang pictures.
- c. Deny any permission.

16. A group of students wants to set up a peace display every time military recruiters are in the high school.

Should school officials:

- a. Provide a table and allow a display.
- b. Provide a table but not allow any posters.
- c. Deny permission.

17. Overall, how would you rate the job that the American educational system does in teaching students about First Amendment rights and responsibilities?

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!