

## The First Amendment in Context

It's time to share your ideas about the First Amendment. How far should the five freedoms extend? What shouldn't they protect?

You will be given a news article to read about a current First Amendment issue/controversy. After reading your news story, answer the questions below in your Journalism Notebook. Be sure to label your new entry with today's date and the title of the article you are reading.

First, you will most likely be coming across words or terminology you are unfamiliar with while you are reading. Highlight these words and define them in the margins of the article. You will never fully understand what you are reading or expand your vocabulary if you do not take this step whilst you are reading and/or researching. You should have a minimum of **5 vocabulary words** highlighted and defined in your article.

Create a response piece to the news story that clearly expresses your opinion on the issue or controversy. Do you think the First Amendment protects these actions? Your response piece should include all of your answers to the questions below.

Do not answer the questions as bullet points or necessarily in the order they are provided. This is your first opportunity to write an informational/opinion piece to educate a reader about the article you have read. Approach this assignment similar to a short essay response.

### **First Amendment news story questions:**

1. What action or issue is this story about?
2. Who is involved?
3. Where did it take place?
4. When did it take place?
5. Why is it newsworthy? (In other words, why is it the subject of a news story?)
6. Which of the five freedoms are involved in this action/issue?
7. Why is this action/issue controversial?
8. How does this news story make you feel? Why?
9. Do you think this action/issue is protected by the First Amendment? Why or why not? (Be sure to justify your answer. Use the cases or facts that you have learned about in your First Amendment studies to support your opinion, and/or conduct additional research to support your ideas.)