



FUTURE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT • HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

Across the nation, more than 100,000 students high school students participated in this one-of-a-kind survey. Take a shot at the questions and see how you fare on your knowledge of the First Amendment!

1. What grade are you currently in?

Below 9th
9th
10th
11th
12th

2-6. People tend to get their news and information from many different sources. How often, if at all do your parents or guardians get news from each of the following sources?

2. From the newspaper?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

3. From the radio?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

4. From television?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

5. From the Internet?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

6. Do your parents read any weekly news magazines such as Time, Newsweek or U.S. News & World Report?

Yes
No
Don't know

7-11. Think about where you get news, including news about your school. How often, if at all, do YOU get news from each of the following sources?

7. From the newspaper?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

8. From the radio?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

9. From television?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

10. From the Internet?

Every day
Several times a week
About once a week
Less than once a week
Never
Don't know

11. Do YOU read any weekly news magazines such as Time, Newsweek or U.S. News & World Report?

Yes
No
Don't know

12. How much news and information do you get about what is going on at your high school?

A lot
Some
Not much
None at all
Don't know

13. How much do you trust journalists to tell the truth? Do you believe they tell the truth...

All of the time
Some of the time
Little of the time
Not at all
Don't know

14-17. Do you currently or have you recently participated in each of the following extra-curricular/after-school programs or activities?

14. Performance Arts (including Music, Band, Dance, Theatre, Acting)

YES
NO

15. Sports

YES
NO

16. Debate or speech clubs/competitions

YES
NO

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17. Student Council or other forms of student government

- YES
- NO

18. During an average week, how many total hours do you spend participating in extra-curricular/after-school activities? (Your best guess is fine)

- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- More than 25
- None

19. Have you ever taken classes in high school that dealt with the First Amendment to the U.S. constitution?

- Yes
- No

20. Have you ever taken classes in high school that discuss the role of media in society?

- Yes
- No

21. Have you ever taken classes in high school that dealt primarily with journalism skills?

- Yes
- No

22. Have you ever taken a class in high school where the teacher required as a class assignment that you read a newspaper or watch television news?

- Yes
- No

23. How frequently do you discuss issues in the news with friends and/or family members?

- All of the time
- Some of the time
- Little of the time
- Not at all
- Don't know

24-35. Please indicate whether or not you have been actively involved in any of the following activities at your high school, and if not, whether you would like to be involved in such activities.

Student newspaper

24. Participant?

- Yes
- No

25. If NO: Would you like to be?

- Yes
- No

Student magazine with a news component (Category does not include student literary magazines or yearbook)

26. Participant?

- Yes
- No

27. If NO: Would you like to be?

- Yes
- No

Student-run radio station with a news component

28. Participant?

- Yes
- No

29. If NO: Would you like to be?

- Yes
- No

Student-run television station with a news component

30. Participant?

- Yes
- No

31. If NO: Would you like to be?

- Yes
- No

Student Internet or World-Wide Web publication with a news component

32. Participant?

- Yes
- No

33. If NOT: Would you like to be?

- Yes
- No

Any other form of student media with a news component

34. Participant?

- Yes
- No

35. Would you like to be?

- Yes
- No

36-38. Do you currently...

36. Volunteer for a community service organization

- YES
- NO

37. Volunteer for service activities in a religious organization

- YES
- NO

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38. Participate in community social clubs or organizations

- YES
- NO

39. During an average week, how many total hours do you spend participating in community related activities?

- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- More than 25
- None

40. The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 200 years ago. This is what it says:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Based on your own feelings about the First Amendment, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

41. Overall, do you think the press in America has too much freedom to do what it wants, too little freedom to do what it wants, or is the amount of freedom the press has about right?

- Too much freedom
- Too little freedom
- About right
- Don't know

For each of the following statements, please circle if you agree or disagree that someone should be allowed to do it...

42. People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions.

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

43. People should be allowed to burn or deface the American flag as a political statement.

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

44. Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

45. Newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of a story.

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree

- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

46. High school students should be allowed to report controversial issues in their student newspapers without the approval of school authorities.

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

47. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“Americans don't appreciate First Amendment freedoms the way they ought to.”

- Strongly agree
- Mildly agree
- Mildly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

48. Are the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment something you personally think about or are they something you take for granted?

- Personally think about
- Take for granted
- Don't know

49. What about most people in the United States—do you think the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment are something people specifically think about or are they something they take for granted?

- Personally think about
- Take for granted
- Don't know

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Below is a series of statements about how people might try to exercise their rights under the First Amendment. In each case please indicate whether you think under current law Americans have the legal right or not to do these things:

50. Under current law, do Americans have the legal right to burn the American flag as a means of political protest?

YES
NO

51. Under current law, do the courts have the right to send reporters to jail for refusing to reveal a news source?

YES
NO

52. Under current law, does the government have the right to restrict indecent material on the Internet?

YES
NO

53. Under current law, do public high school authorities have the right to prevent student newspapers published at their

high schools from publishing material they deem controversial?

YES
NO

54. Under current law, does someone have the legal right to shout "fire" in a crowded arena as a prank?

YES
NO

Finally, please answer the following questions for classification purposes only.

55. How likely are you to pursue a career in journalism once your formal schooling has been completed?

Very likely
Somewhat likely
Not too likely
Not at all likely
Don't know

56. How likely are you to go on to college after high school?

Very likely
Somewhat likely
Not too likely
Not at all likely
Don't know

58. Are you male or female?

MALE
FEMALE

59. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

YES
NO

60. What is your race?

White/Caucasian
Black/African-American
Am Indian/Alaska native
Asian
Some other race

61. Thinking about your family's current financial situation do you consider yourself to be rich, upper income, middle income, lower income, or poor?

Rich
Upper income
Middle income
Lower income
Poor

62. What is your approximate overall high school GPA?

0.0-2.0 (or 0-75)
2.1-3.0 (or 76-85)
3.1-3.5 (or 86-90)
3.6-4.0 (or 91-95)
Over 4.0 (over 95)

63. Which of the following grades is closest to your current overall grade point average?

A
B
C
D
F

64. Which best describes you?

I was born a U.S. citizen
I was born in another country but became a U.S. citizen
I was born in another country, and I am not a U.S. citizen



THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

We'd love to hear of your results. Please contact us at info@jideas.org with your thoughts and feedback!