

The Future of the First Amendment III

**A study commissioned by the
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

**Conducted by:
Kenneth Dautrich and David Yalof
University of Connecticut**

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APPENDIX A:

KNIGHT FOFA – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY – 2004, 2006 & 2007

1. What grade are you currently in?

	2004	2006	2007
Below 9 th	2%	0%	0%
9 th	29%	30%	29%
10 th	27%	27%	29%
11 th	23%	24%	27%
12 th	19%	18%	15%

2. Do you currently have access to the internet:

	2006*	2007
At home	87%	90%
At School	97%	99%
Both		

3. Which of the following sources do you consider your main source of news?

	2007
Newspapers in print form	24%
Newspapers on online	9%
Radio news broadcasts	22%
Television news broadcasts	63%
Television on-line websites	6%
Internet service provider websites such as Google or Yahoo News	29%
Blogs	3%
Entertainment programs featuring current events	14%

4. How often, if at all, do you get news and information from online or Internet sources in general?

	2006	2007
Everyday	11%	25%
Several times a week	20%	28%
About once a week	20%	20%

Less than once a week	20%	18%
Never	29%	10%

5. Short for “web logs,” “blogs” are defined as online journals in which people post diary entries about their personal experiences and opinions, to be read online by others. How often, if at all, do you get news and information from blogs?

2006 2007

Everyday	9%	7%
Several times a week	11%	10%
About once a week	12%	11%
Less than once a week	16%	20%
Never	52%	54%

6. How often, if at all, do you get news and information from mobile devices such as a cell phone or a BlackBerry?

2007

Everyday	8%
Several times a week	7%
About once a week	7%
Less than once a week	11%
Never	67%

7. How often, if at all, do you watch videos on websites such as “Youtube” or “Google video”?

2007

Everyday	13%
Several times a week	26%
About once a week	19%
Less than once a week	24%
Never	18%

8. Now thinking about what you do online... How often, if at all, do you ... use the Internet, the World Wide Web or an online service to text message or instant message?

2007

Everyday	45%
Several times a week	22%
About once a week	10%

Less than once a week	9%
Never	14%

9. Now thinking about what you do online... How often, if at all, do you ... use the Internet, the World Wide Web or an online service to participate in online discussions or chat groups?

	2006	2007
Everyday	18%	15%
Several times a week	16%	13%
About once a week	10%	9%
Less than once a week	16%	15%
Never	41%	48%

10. Now thinking about what you do online... How often, if at all, do you ... use the Internet, the World Wide Web or an online service to post messages or opinions to online columns or blogs that may be read by the general public?

	2006	2007
Everyday	10%	11%
Several times a week	11%	12%
About once a week	11%	12%
Less than once a week	17%	17%
Never	51%	48%

11. Below is a list of some stories that have appeared in the news recently. Please indicate, with the corresponding number in the space provided, whether you think the story is:

- a. Britney Spears shaving her head:

	2007
Extremely important	5%
Very important	2%
Somewhat important	8%
Not that important	85%

- b. A presidential candidate giving a speech on tax policy:

2007

Extremely important	15%
Very important	39%
Somewhat important	33%
Not that important	14%

- c. The latest bombing in Iraq that killed U.S. military personnel:

2007

Extremely important	48%
Very important	34%
Somewhat important	13%
Not that important	5%

- d. Recent declines in the Dow Jones Industrial stock average:

2007

Extremely important	6%
Very important	20%
Somewhat important	42%
Not that important	32%

- e. Highlights of the latest round of the NBA basketball playoffs:

2007

Extremely important	13%
Very important	11%
Somewhat important	27%
Not that important	50%

12. Now I'd like you to go back through the list of stories. Please indicate, with the corresponding number in the space provided, how interested you are in each story:

- a. Britney Spears shaving her head:

2007

Extremely interested	9%
Very interested	7%
Somewhat interested	20%
Not that interested	64%

- b. A presidential candidate giving a speech on tax policy:

2007

Extremely interested	5%
Very interested	11%
Somewhat interested	30%
Not that interested	53%

- c. The latest bombing in Iraq that killed U.S. military personnel:

2007

Extremely interested	26%
Very interested	31%
Somewhat interested	29%
Not that interested	14%

- d. Recent declines in the Dow Jones Industrial stock average:

2007

Extremely interested	4%
Very interested	7%
Somewhat interested	20%
Not that interested	68%

- e. Highlights of the latest round of the NBA basketball playoffs:

2007

Extremely interested	20%
Very interested	15%
Somewhat interested	19%
Not that interested	46%

13. Please indicate, with the corresponding number in the space provided, how much influence, if any, do each of the following have on your decisions regarding what type of media you use for news:

- a. Peers and friends:

2007

A Lot	39%
Some	31%
A little	17%

None at all 12%

b. Teachers:

2007

A Lot 13%

Some 35%

A little 32%

None at all 21%

c. Parents:

2007

A Lot 43%

Some 30%

A little 16%

None at all 11%

d. Bloggers:

2007

A Lot 4%

Some 7%

A little 14%

None at all 75%

e. Websites:

2007

A Lot 13%

Some 20%

A little 28%

None at all 40%

14. Which of the following people feel the same way that you do about the First Amendment?

2007

My friends 63%

My teachers 28%

My parents 49%

No one	6%
Other	19%

15. 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.*

	2004	2006	2007
Strongly agree	12%	18%	12%
Mildly agree	23%	27%	20%
Mildly disagree	19%	16%	21%
Strongly disagree	25%	21%	25%
Don't know	21%	19%	21%

16. 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?

	2004	2006	2007
Too much freedom	32%	30%	33%
Too little freedom	10%	11%	12%
About right	37%	41%	38%
Don't know	21%	18%	18%

17. People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions.

	2004	2006	2007
Strongly agree	51%	52%	43%
Mildly agree	32%	33%	33%
Mildly disagree	5%	5%	8%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	4%
Don't know	10%	10%	12%

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

	2004	2006	2007
Strongly agree	8%	7%	8%
Mildly agree	8%	9%	8%
Mildly disagree	11%	12%	12%
Strongly disagree	63%	64%	60%
Don't know	10%	8%	11%

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

	2004	2006	2007
Strongly agree	40%	37%	33%
Mildly agree	30%	32%	30%
Mildly disagree	14%	16%	15%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	9%
Don't know	9%	8%	13%

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

	2004	2006	2007
Strongly agree	24%	26%	26%
Mildly agree	27%	28%	28%
Mildly disagree	22%	23%	21%
Strongly disagree	14%	13%	11%
Don't know	13%	10%	14%

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

	2004	2006	2007
Strongly agree	30%	34%	30%
Mildly agree	28%	30%	28%
Mildly disagree	18%	17%	18%
Strongly disagree	11%	8%	9%
Don't know	13%	11%	14%

21a. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: To be an American means, at least in part, to accept the responsibility to guard the rights of others, even those with whom we deeply disagree”

2007

Strongly agree	34%
Mildly agree	48%
Mildly disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	6%

22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
“Americans don’t appreciate First Amendment freedoms the way they ought to.”

2004 2006 2007

Strongly agree	17%	15%	20%
Mildly agree	33%	38%	34%
Mildly disagree	18%	17%	15%
Strongly disagree	9%	7%	7%
Don’t know	23%	23%	25%

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

2004 2006 2007

Personally think about	27%	24%	25%
Take for granted	36%	42%	38%
Don’t know	37%	34%	36%

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

2004 2006 2007

Yes	58%	72%	68%
No	42%	28%	32%

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

2004 2006 2007

Yes	52%	62%	62%
No	48%	38%	38%

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

	2004	2006	2007
Yes	21%	26%	26%
No	79%	74%	74%

27. 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?

	2004	2006	2007
Yes	75%	81%	78%
No	25%	19%	22%

30. In 2005 Congress began requiring all secondary schools and colleges to celebrate “Constitution Day” every September 17th. Do you remember specifically how your high school chose to commemorate or celebrate Constitution Day?

	2007
Yes	11%
No	34%
Never heard of Constitution Day	51%
DK/Ref	4%

31. Since 1990, Channel One has been a leading source of news and information for young people, delivering news broadcasts to more than 7 million teens in middle schools and high schools across the country. Have you ever heard anything before about Channel One’s broadcasts?

	2007
Yes	36%
No	56%
DK/Ref	8%

32. Does your high school currently receive Channel One broadcasts?

	2007
Yes	27%
No	50%
DK/Ref.	23%

33. How often have you viewed a Channel One broadcast?

2007

Everyday	12%
Several times a week	7%
About once a week	7%
Less than once a week	11%
Never	63%