

Freedom of Speech Discussion Guide

Part of the first amendment states that "Congress shall make no law ...abridging the freedom of speech."

Brainstorm: How would you define "speech"? Can speech be expressed in multiple ways? Why do you think the Founding Fathers would include this in the Bill of Rights?

Consider the questions above and below while you watch the videos. Write brief responses in the blanks below.

"Bong Hits 4 Jesus" Video

1) Who do you think was within their rights in this video, the student or the school district? Why?

2) What's the danger in allowing schools the right to limit student speech? Do you think there are appropriate reasons for limit speech?

"Middle School Student Arrested for Cyberbullying" video

1) Was the bully in the video exercising her right to free speech or does this qualify as a punishable offense under the law?

2) How do we as a society determine the difference between free speech and hate speech? Is there a difference?