

First Amendment Posts – List of Questions

1. What is fundamental purpose of the First Amendment? Choose one of the following five reasons or come up with your own. Explain your rationale:

The value of the first amendment protections for our society comes from...

_____ ...our need to deliberate and debate ideas for our democratic system of self-governance to function.

_____ ...the fundamental needs of all people to learn, develop their identity, and express themselves freely.

_____ ...the fact that finding truth depends on debate and differences of opinion within the marketplace of ideas.

_____ ...how the exercise of these rights allows elected officials to learn about and respond to problems before citizens feel the need to take more drastic action to create change.

_____ ...the ability of these rights to check the potential oppression and accumulation of power that is inherent in all government.

2. How should our government balance first amendment protections w/ preventing another 9/11?

3. In what ways are First Amendment Freedoms important beyond our borders and how as a country should we support them?

4. What limits do you think need to be placed on free speech?

5. How do you experience free speech?

6. How have you used freedom of assembly/association? How do you think you might use it in the future? If it was taken away, how would that affect you?

7. What do you enjoy as part of your daily life because you have freedom of the press? If freedom of the press was taken away, how would it affect your life?

8. How do you experience the freedom of religion? If either the separation of church and state or the freedom of religious expression was curtailed, how would it affect your daily life?

9. How do you experience the freedom to petition the government? If this freedom was taken away, how would it affect you?

10. Which of the freedoms or restrictions with regard to student speech do you feel most strongly about? Explain your view and the reasons for your position.