

WELCOME BACK!

August 16, 2018

DO NOW

1. Find your seat!
2. Grab a Do Now sheet and spend about 5-10 minutes responding to the prompt.
3. PLEASE USE COMPLETE SENTENCES

Note: Do Nows are INDEPENDENT and QUIET activities

What freedoms does the first amendment give us?

1.

2.

3.

4.

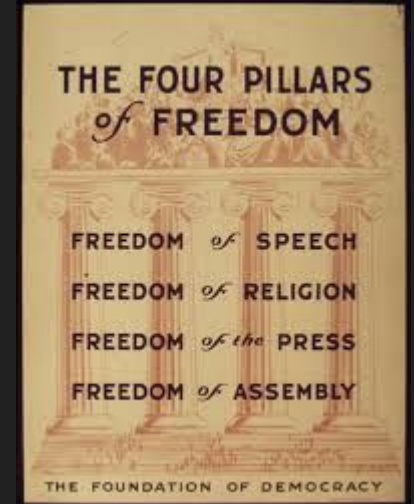
5.

The First Amendment

"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."

Why is a Free Press Important?

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution safeguards the public's right to a free press, but why? Why does a free press matter? Is the press currently living up to its public obligations? If not, what could the press be doing better?



The Meaning of a Free Press

The Heritage Foundation points to a quote from the Appeal to the Inhabitants of Quebec, written by the First Continental Congress in 1774 which implies that a free press is a necessary check on the government and the behaviors of politicians:

"The last right we shall mention regards the freedom of the press. The importance of this consists, besides the advancement of truth, science, morality, and arts in general, in its diffusion of liberal sentiments on the administration of Government, its ready communication of thoughts between subjects, and its consequential promotion of union among them, whereby oppressive officers are shamed or intimidated into more honorable and just modes of conducting affairs."

The Meaning of a Free Press

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) echoes that sentiment, referring to the press as a 'watchdog', as well as a place to share and encounter ideas:

"The freedom of the press, protected by the First Amendment, is critical to a democracy in which the government is accountable to the people. A free media functions as a watchdog that can investigate and report on government wrongdoing. It is also a vibrant marketplace of ideas, a vehicle for ordinary citizens to express themselves and gain exposure to a wide range of information and opinions."

Explore how Freedom of the Press Was Threatened in Ferguson

As we watch the video, respond to the questions on your handout. You may discuss answers in small groups.



Consider the Challenges Facing the Police

Every good journalist considers multiple sides of the story. Read through the transcript of the police press conference in Ferguson, to see how the police responded to what happened in regards to repression of the freedom of press.

While you read, write at least one Surprising, Interesting, and Troubling thing on your handouts.



Exit Ticket

In 2-3 sentences, tell me whether you think that need to keep the community safe should interfere with the freedom of press, or if press should never be repressed, no matter what? Why?

