



Sixth Grade Civics Class Inquiry-Based Assessment Questions

Theme: Foundations of Government

Standards covered: 6.7

The First Amendment states that laws shall not be passed that abridge the freedom of speech. Is freedom of speech the most important right protected in the first amendment? Why or why not?

- Why was the freedom of speech important to the authors of the First Amendment?
- Explain the difference between the government restricting free speech and a non-government person or organization restricting free speech.

Sample Follow Up Questions

- Does the First Amendment guarantee a person's right to lie or tell non-truths? If so, should it be stated it's a lie? If not, what should the consequences be?
- Should there be a difference between students' free speech rights and adults' free speech rights? Explain.
- Is there some sort of speech that should not receive any protection (like racist speech) or should people be allowed to say what they want and the listener can choose to do with it as they want it?
- How has the internet and social media changed the idea of free speech?