

## First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



The Five Fundamental Freedoms

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## Freedom of Speech



- The freedom to express your thoughts, ideas, opinions, and/or beliefs in public without fear of government action against you.
- Some people do this louder than others.

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## Freedom of Speech



- Freedom of speech does not refer only to one person speaking directly to other people.

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## Freedom of Speech



- Freedom of speech includes information which is broadcast from radio stations.

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## Freedom of Speech



- Freedom of speech includes television broadcasts.
- These are not just news programs, but also ideas and opinions expressed in movies, TV shows and even cartoons.

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## Freedom of Speech



- The internet provides another form of freedom of speech.
- Websites, e-mail, instant messaging, and blogs are methods for free speech.

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### Freedom of Speech



- Freedom of speech includes freedom of expression. You can express your ideas in other ways, such as letting your shirt do your talking for you.

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### Freedom of Speech



- Another way to express yourself and your unhappiness with actions of the government is by flag burning. There is a bill before the U.S. Congress which would make flag burning illegal.

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### Freedom of Speech



- Freedom of speech does not protect all speech. You can't shout "Fire!" In a public place when there's no fire. You can't tell lies about someone to hurt them or their reputation. That is called slander and you may be taken to court.

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### Freedom of Religion



- Freedom of religion means the freedom to worship without fear of the government taking action against you or attempting to control your beliefs. There are many religions practiced in the U.S.

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### Freedom of Religion



- The various Christian religions are the most common forms in the U.S., but there are many different denominations within that broad category.

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### Freedom of Religion



- Judaism is another major faith practiced in the U.S. And worldwide.

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### Freedom of Religion



- Islam is another major faith practiced in the U.S. and worldwide.

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### Freedom of Religion



- Hindu is another well recognized religious faith.

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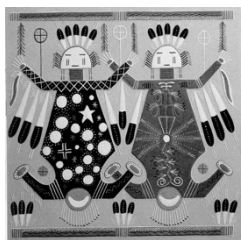
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### Freedom of Religion



- Many native American tribes, like the Navajo, practice a religion of their own.

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## Freedom of Religion



- There are limits to religious freedom. An example would be any religion that practiced human sacrifice.
- Here the Aztecs are sacrificing a person to their sun god.

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## Freedom of the Press



- Freedom of the press is the freedom to print information including that which criticizes the government.
- The press is then able to act as a watchdog of our individual freedoms.

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## Freedom of the Press

### The Washington Post



- We most often think of the press as newspapers, but it also includes magazines, books, and other printed material.

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## Freedom of the Press



- Today's news media is expected to present a truthful account of events, but this is not always the case.

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## Freedom of the Press



- Freedom of the press is limited. News media and individuals can be taken to court for printing lies that harm a person's reputation. This offense is called libel.

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## Freedom of Assembly



- Freedom of assembly allows people to gather together, peacefully, for a variety of purposes.

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### Freedom of Assembly



- Examples of freedom of assembly include gatherings like a family reunion.

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### Freedom of Assembly



- School dances, such as the prom, are another example of freedom of assembly.

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### Freedom of Assembly



- Seeing your favorite band in concert is also a form of assembly.

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### Freedom of Assembly



- A protest march is a particular form of assembly.
- These groups are often required to get a permit because their assemblies occur in places that may block traffic or directly affect the public.

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### Freedom of Assembly



- There are limits on free assembly such as assemblies that lead to injury and/or property damage.

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### Freedom to Petition



- Freedom to petition the government is writing to your elected representatives for information or to correct a government action you believe to be wrong.
- A letter is the most common form.

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### Freedom to Petition



- Freedom to petition also includes getting a number of people to sign a form declaring that they are in agreement concerning a particular issue.

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### Freedom to Petition



- Petitions may be directed to all levels of government.
- The U.S. Congress is our national level of elected officials.

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### Freedom to Petition



- The Virginia General Assembly represents us at the state level.

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### Freedom to Petition



- Freedom to petition also includes your freedom to write your local school board concerning policies at your school.

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### Freedom to Petition



- An obvious example of limitations to freedom to petition would be if you were to threaten a representative if they refused to see things your way.

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### The Five Fundamental Freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of the Press
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom to Petition the Government

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Remember All Five!

Speech  
Religion  
Press  
Assembly  
Petition

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