

Name:
Date:

In My Opinion

It's time to share your ideas about the First Amendment. How far should the five freedoms extend? What shouldn't they protect?

1. Find a news article about a current First Amendment issue/controversy or a First Amendment-related case before the courts. Possible sources:
 - *The New York Times* has an index of First Amendment-related stories: http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/u/us_constitution/first_amendment/index.html (Many other news organizations have similar lists that can be found by using the search function on their homepages.)
 - SCOTUSblog covers Supreme Court cases: <http://www.scotusblog.com/> (Search "First Amendment" to find a list of case pages about First Amendment cases.)
2. After reading your news story, answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.
 - a. What action or issue is this story about?
 - b. Who is involved?
 - c. Where did it take place?
 - d. When did it take place?
 - e. Why is it newsworthy? (In other words, why is it the subject of a news story?)
 - f. Which of the five freedoms are involved in this action/issue?
 - g. Why is this action/issue controversial?
 - h. How does this news story make you feel? Why?
 - i. Do you think this action/issue is protected by the First Amendment? Why or why not? (Be sure to justify your answer. Use the cases or facts that you have learned about in your First Amendment studies to support your opinion, and/or conduct additional research to support your ideas.)
3. Create a response piece to the news story that clearly expresses your opinion on the issue or controversy it presents. Your response piece can take any form. Some ideas:
 - An opinion essay
 - A video blog
 - A multimedia poster
 - A photo essay

Your response piece should include all of your answers to the questions above.