

## *Freedom of Speech*

## *Freedom of Expression*

### Homework:

Legal Systems Problems:

Government Text, must be completed in class

- 1.) 37.2, 37.5 Due Thursday Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>
- 2.) 37.6, 37.9, 37.11 Due Monday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

Sec. 3 review, #23-28 Due: ???

3.) 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Poster, t-shirt, or video: Due Week of, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 50 pts (creativity, neatness, message)

4.) 3 Paragraph Essay, Due: Wednesday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> **You will present these in class (3-5 minutes)**  
Presentation worth 25 pts (formal presentation, proper tone, clarity, eye contact, sell your argument!)  
Be prepared for questions from fellow students; defend your position in a mature, adult manner!

Topics: You can choose something not from the list (only 2 topics per class)

1. Dress Code Policy -

Do you have the right? Or does the School District have the right to suspend you over violation of a dress code policy? Look at various dress code policies across the nation, not just Mediapolis

Anti-abortion  
Religious References  
Confederate Flag  
Anti Bush/Obama

Anti War  
Anti 8-8-08  
Hitler  
Hair, Tattoos, body piercing

2. Art class-Expressing your artistic talent (drawings, sketches, music, poems, stories, art work, etc.)

Religious references  
Controversial images

3. Disciplined/suspended for off school websites postings (internet blogs, facebook, etc.)

- Cyber bullying
- Posting false information about administration and/or teachers/students

4. Restricting violence or sexual references on music videos, videogames, commercials, ads, television shows, etc.

FCC regulations  
What is considered offensive, inappropriate, lewd, etc...?  
MTV awards, Janet Jackson, etc.

5. Freedom of Expression –hugs, “pound it”

6. Anti-war speech

7. Controversial books school libraries

8. Schools blocking webpages, constitutional right to access all materials

9. Censorship of music lyrics, movies, etc.

10. Student Speech

11. Student publication (speech/press)

### **How to setup your 3 paragraphs-this is VERY different, follow the example**

1. Tell me what your Topic is. No thesis required, just a topic BUT be specific
2. First two paragraphs (each) minimum 10 sentences, opinion paragraph is a minimum 6 sentences
3. Para #1 Argument for, Para #2 argument against, Para #3 your opinion
4. NO intro, NO conclusion
5. Must have ONE (minimum) court case (place throughout as appropriate)
6. Do not have question/opinion format

For example: Do you believe in freedom of expression? Why yes, freedom of expression is essential in our daily lives and should be protected by the First Amendment.

To avoid, have no questions w/in your essay

7. **Citation required, use of direct quotes, 2 sentences minimum (again follow the example)**  
**Two sources are required (minimum)**

For example:

DO NOT UNDERLINE YOUR CITATION-used an demonstration

Topic: Student Expression in form of accessories

**Argument for Student Expression**

"John Tinker, 15 years old, his sister Mary Beth Tinker, 13 years old, and Christopher Echardt, 16 years old, decided along with their parents to protest the Vietnam War by wearing black armbands to their Des Moines schools during the Christmas holiday season. Upon learning of their intentions, and fearing that the armbands would provoke disturbances, the principals of the Des Moines school district resolved that all students wearing armbands be asked to remove them or face suspension." (3) Many students feel that they have the right to express themselves in many formats. A visual aid is very appealing and provocative. An armband, a tattoo, or even long locks may send the wrong message. However, individual expression is and should be fully protected by the First Amendment. In conclusion, "the wearing of armbands was "closely akin to 'pure speech'" and protected by the First Amendment. School environments imply limitations on free expression, but here the principals lacked justification for imposing any such limits. The principals had failed to show that the forbidden conduct would substantially interfere with appropriate school discipline." (3) This influential Supreme Court Case has impacted every student as they walk through the front door of their school. . Etc.....

**Argument against Student Expression**

Student conduct is not absolute; most students understand a line is formed and should not be crossed. Especially when a form of expression becomes obstructive and/or obsessive. "Teachers and parents in Lakeville are asking for a districtwide policy banning the Confederate battle flag from school grounds" (2) Many Americans see the Confederate flag as a form of racism. Our Nation has come very far in closing the gap of discrimination and prejudice against African Americans. If schools allow students to express themselves by wearing a Confederate Flag around the neck or wrist, how can we measure their intent. The intent to cause harm by implying hate or the intent to support the once popular "The Dukes of Hazzard" show. Etc.....

**Opinion**

I strongly believe citizens have the right to express themselves. However, many individuals fail to see how their expression can be interrupted at disrespectful, derogatory, or just plain mean. I want my child to attend school and feel that his rights are fully protected. Boundaries and guidelines must be established Etc.....