

## **Express Yourself: Freedom of Expression- Every Day and Everywhere!**

### **Purpose:**

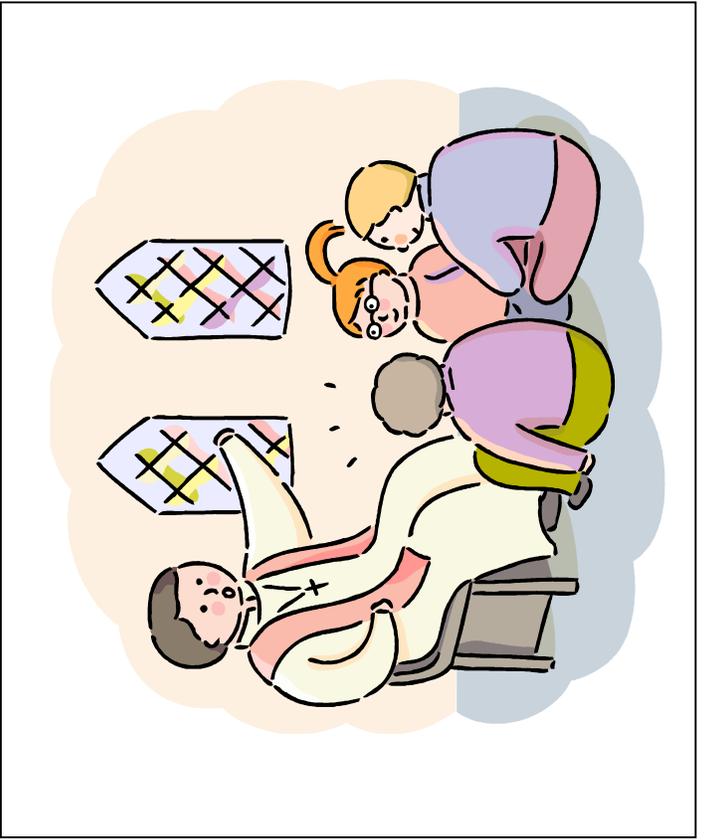
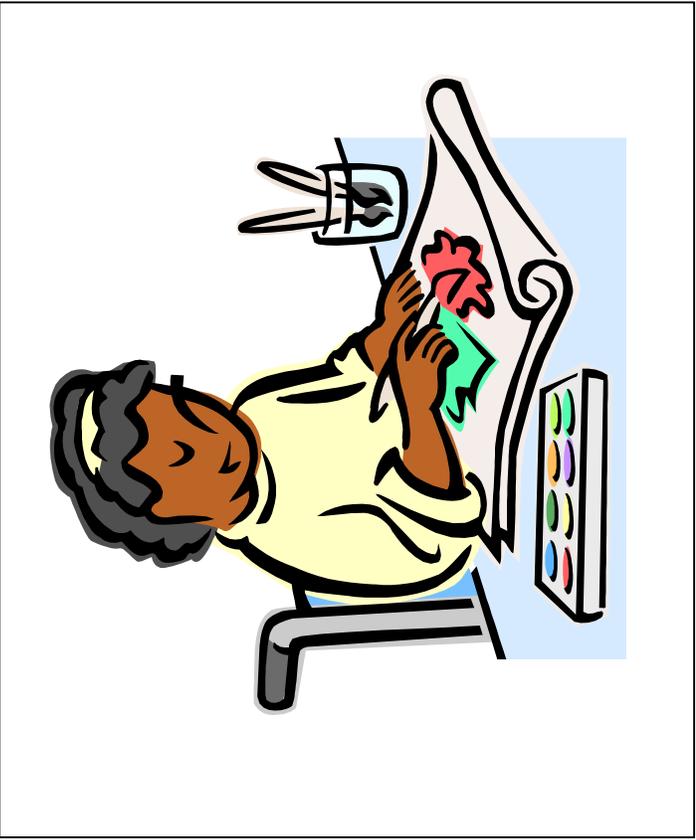
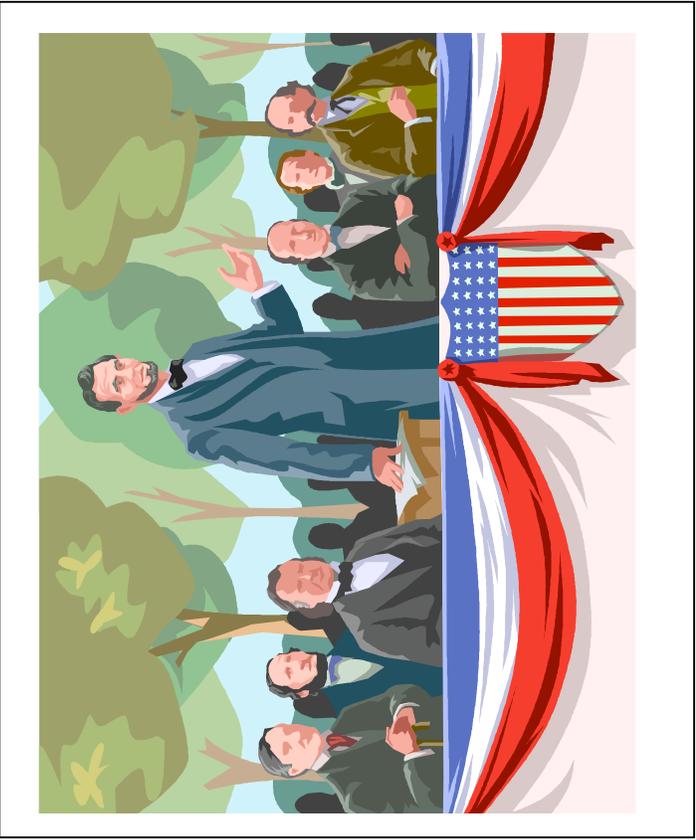
The First Amendment's guarantees of free speech, the press, assembly, and petition can be identified in the everyday activities of children's lives. This lesson provides an introduction into these protections of liberty, requiring students to draw conclusions from visual prompts and categorizing First Amendment freedoms as they explore the meaning behind freedom of expression.

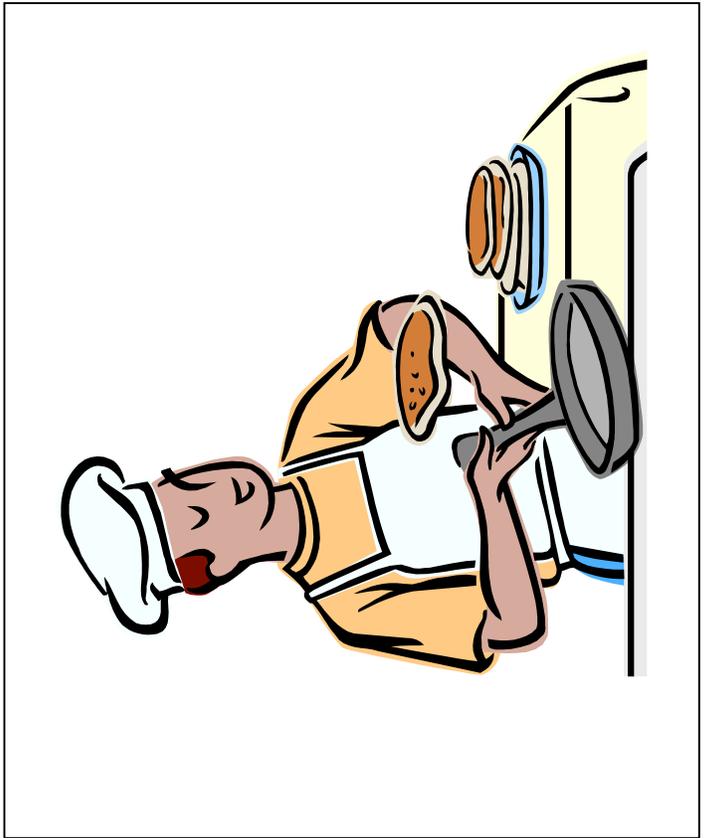
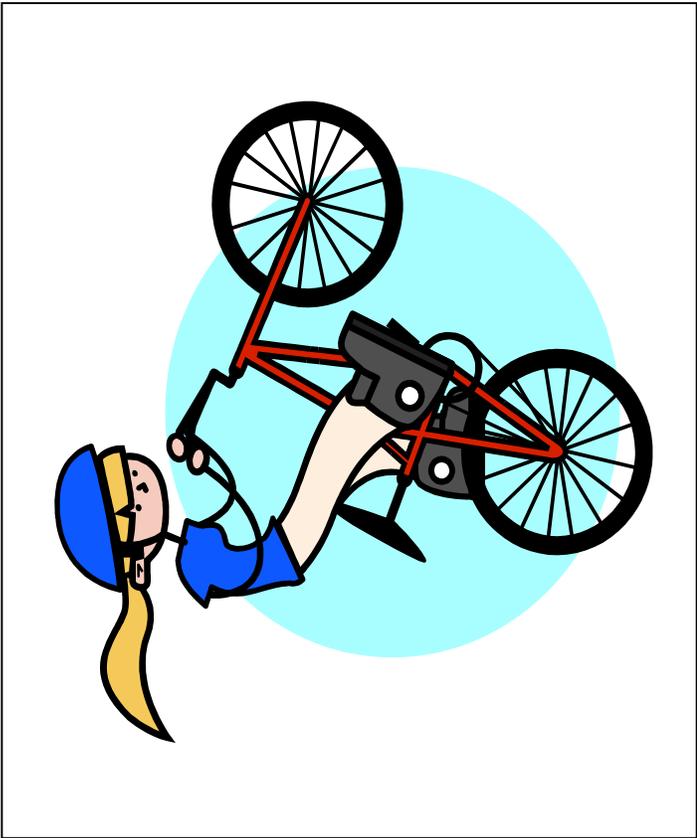
### **Procedure:**

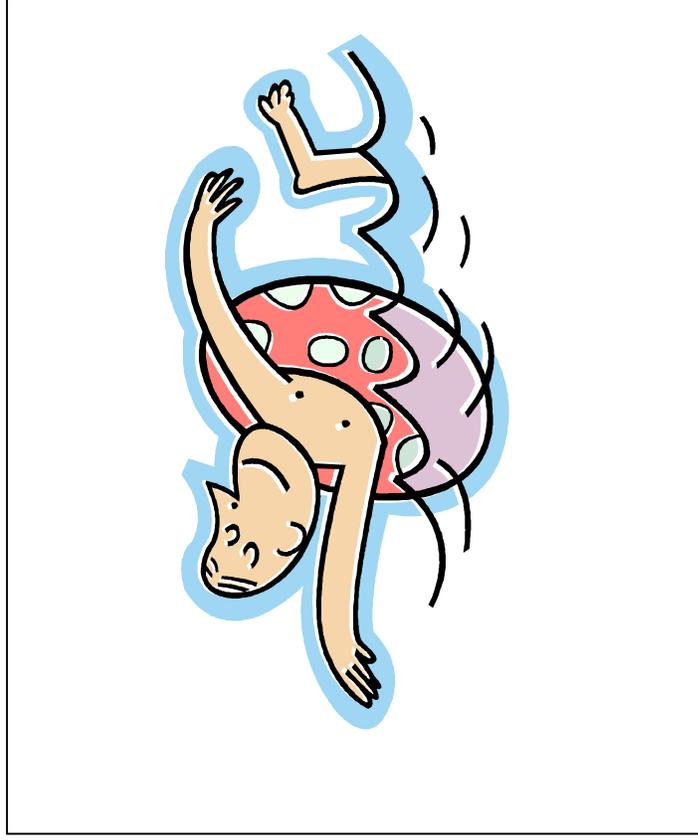
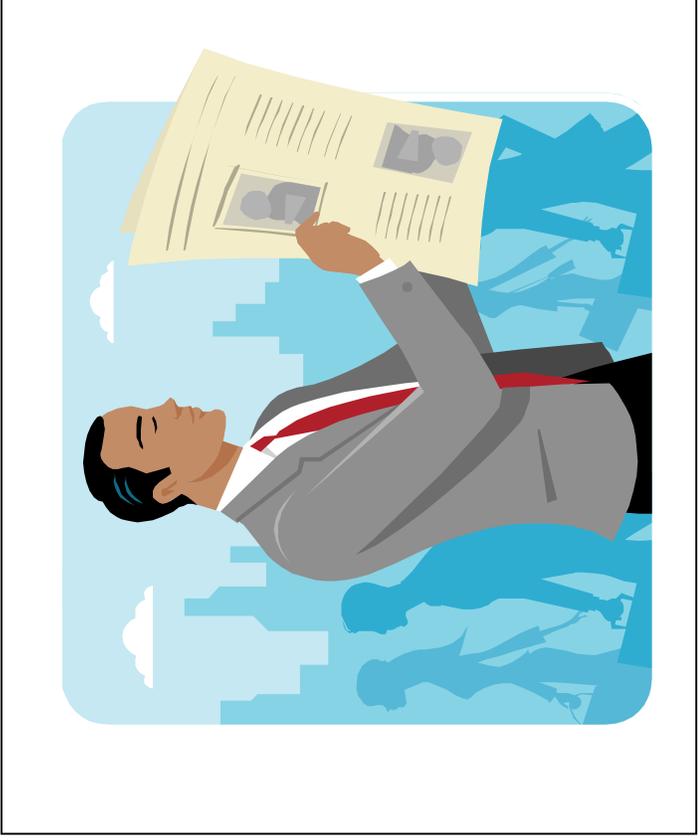
1. Ask students to imagine that they have celebrated a recent birthday, receiving a present for which they have long awaited. But, they cannot tell anyone about their birthday or the present. How would this make them feel? Tell students that in our country, this would not happen because we have freedoms to express what we think, what we have experienced, and what we want. Ask students to try to define what the words "rights" and "express" mean. Make sure students understand that having a "right of expression" means the ability to freely speak or write about your feelings and thoughts without someone stopping you.
2. Cut the visuals included in the lesson into 12 individual pieces of paper. Give each group of three to four students a complete set of the 12 visuals. Allow time for groups to sort the pictures, identifying which ones show people using their right of expression.
3. Ask students to read aloud the following passage from the First Amendment, displayed on the chalkboard or in the classroom: "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government..." Clarify for students what the following terms mean: "abridge", "speech", "press", "assemble" and "petition."
4. Allow time for students to return to work with their groups. Their assignment is to take the pictures displaying First Amendment freedoms and make four stacks- pictures showing people expressing their ideas through the spoken word (free speech), pictures showing people expressing their thoughts through the written word (press), pictures showing people asking for change to occur (petition), and pictures of people meeting together to express their ideas (assembly).
5. Students should find difficulty categorizing two pictures into the categories above (the musicians and the artist.) Ask students if they think ideas, feelings, or thoughts can be expressed in ways that do not include using language, either spoken or written? Help students come to the realization that there are other ways to communicate ideas which are also protected by the First Amendment. For example, musicians write and sing songs that express what they think and feel; some songs can make us feel sad or happy, even without lyrics. Similarly, artists can paint pictures that express how they feel; such pictures can make us sad or happy by just looking at them.

6. Instruct students that they will be writing group Cinquain poems. These Cinquains will have five lines. All poems will begin with the same "Line 1" - the one word (the title) "Expression". Lines 2 through 5 will be written by each group independently. Line 2 will have two words that describe the title. Line 3 has three words that show action about the title. Line 4 is a four-word phrase about "expression", and line 5 has one word which summarizes the thoughts of the poem. (A template is provided in this lesson, if the instructor wishes to use it.)

7. Extension: Ask student groups to think of a song that makes them smile. Make a list of these songs. Ask students to search through picture books in the room, finding pictures that make them smile. Allow students to share and explain why the picture makes them happy.





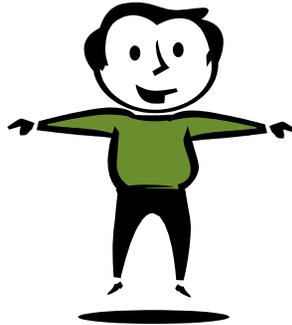


# ***Our Cinquian Poem About the First Amendment***

*By*

---

---



**EXPRESSION!**

---

---

*(words that describe "expression")*

---

---

---

*(words that show action)*

---

---

*(A four- word phrase about expression)*

---

*(one word that summarize your thoughts)*