



Speak Up!

Purpose:

The First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of expression can be keenly articulated through visual representations found on poster art created for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Bill of Rights. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of the First Amendment in modern society through analysis of selected poster art.

Procedure:

1. Inform the class that a special contest was conducted at the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. This contest encouraged students to submit a poster, conveying a message about the significance of the Bill of Rights and its First Amendment to the liberties we cherish today as American citizens. Students will analyze the winning posters from this competition, evaluating the artist's message and determining how the First Amendment might affect us in the future.
2. Divide the class into pairs. Provide each pair with a copy of the "sample poster". Also, provide pairs with a copy of the "First Amendment in Posters" handout to assist them in analyzing the sample poster. Conduct a class discussion in order to model an effective approach to analyzing the message of both a visual piece of artwork and the written message accompanying the artwork.
3. Provide each pair of students with two posters in this lesson, copied front to back, and one copy of the "First Amendment Poster Matrix." Give pairs of students four minutes to examine their posters, completing the necessary information in the first three columns of the matrix. (If student pairs are not in agreement with the artist's message, they may indicate their individual opinions in the space provided on the matrix.)
4. When the instructor calls "time," pairs of students will exchange their posters with another pair of students. The process will be repeated until all pairs have analyzed all eight posters.
5. When completed, ask student pairs to discuss the question found in the last column of the matrix, using the last two posters they have analyzed. After a given time to record their responses, ask volunteers to share their thoughts with the class.

Option: Use the "Carousel" instructional strategy (found below) for groups to analyze each of the four posters.

6. For extension, create a class competition encouraging students to create their own posters about one of the five liberties expressed in the First Amendment. Offer certificates as awards for completion of posters, or encourage publication of the posters in a school or local newspaper.

CAROUSEL STRATEGY

Purpose:

This strategy is advantageous for brainstorming student responses to broad issues or questions, to elicit student analysis of visual data (such as graphs, charts, cartoons, photos), or to encourage small group discussion of a problem prior to individuals writing about the problem.

Procedure:

1. Students are assigned to small groups of no more than 3-4. A recorder is designated for each group and given a different color of marker.
2. Students are assigned to go to a particular place in the classroom where they will find posted on the wall a political cartoon, poster, graph, or chart, copied large enough for all group members to easily see and numbered 1-5, etc.
3. After a two-minute discussion of what they see, students are to respond to given questions or tasks assigned by the instructor.
4. After five minutes have passed, instruct groups to rotate to the next posting. (For example, group #1 goes to #2, and the last group goes to #1.)
5. Instruct groups to review the next visual and develop answers to given questions.
6. Repeat the procedure until all groups have rotated to each station.
7. Instruct groups to return to their desks with the set of questions about their original visual and from the suggested questions, write their own individual analysis using an essay format.

Tip: If classroom space or preparation time is an issue, charts on the walls are not absolutely necessary. Groups can rotate around to groups of desks.

With Liberty...



The Statue of Liberty was a gift of France to the United States. She stands in the New York harbor, welcoming foreigners to the land of opportunity.

The Statue of Liberty symbolizes the American Dream and its liberties promised by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

FIRST AMENDMENT POSTER ANALYSIS

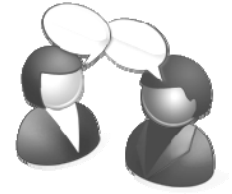
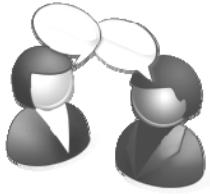
Which First Amendment right is shown in this poster?

What is the author's message about the First Amendment?

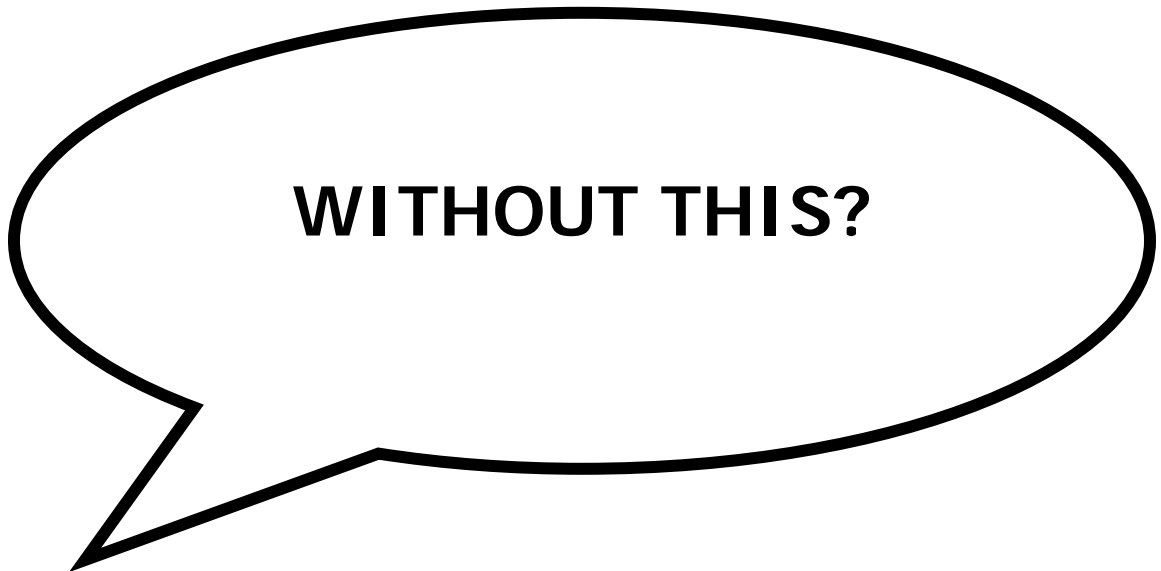
How might this affect you or your future?

Do you agree or disagree with the author? Why or why not?

First Amendment Poster Comparison Chart



Poster:	What is the First Amendment Right shown in the poster?	What do you think is the poster's Message?	+ = Agree X = Disagree	How might this affect YOU or your FUTURE?
A				
B				
C				
D				



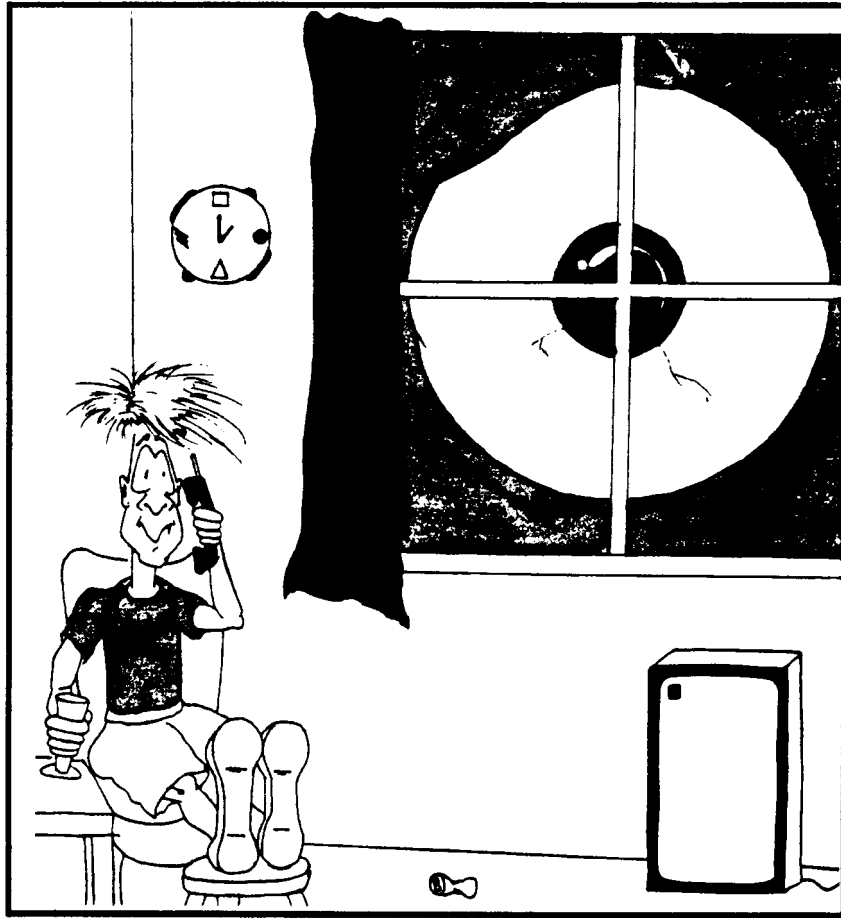
**You are unique! And you have your own thoughts and great ideas!
But what good will they be if they cannot be spoken aloud?**

**With the Bill of Rights, your unique ideas, one-of-a-kind solutions,
and a whole lot more, will be given due recognition.**



**Without the First
Amendment....
It might all have been
a dream.**

IS SOMEONE WATCHING YOU?



Scared to speak out on issues such a politics or religion?
Not if you live in the United States.

In 1791, the First Amendment was added to the Constitution.
Since then, other amendments have been added,
Making sure that all people have the rights they deserve-
regardless of opinions or beliefs.

By reading and understanding the First Amendment,
we can carry on our nation's tradition of freedom.



HEAR
NOTHING.

SEE
NOTHING.

SPEAKING
NOTHING.

**Can you imagine what life would be like unable
to listen to music of your choice?
Or watch television or movies of your choice?
Or speak your mind?
Rights make such freedoms possible.**

D.