

Student Handout 1: Exploring the First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

- The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

1. What rights does the First Amendment protect?
2. Why do you think both clauses are needed to protect religious freedom?
3. What constitutes speech?
4. Why is some speech protected (e.g. speaking out against political policy, political candidates, and/or political ideas) while other speech is not protected (e.g. threatening a candidate with violence)?
5. What do the three quotes on Slide 11 have in common? Explain.
6. What First Amendment rights in action do you see in the video?