

This Week's Focus: The First Amendment

Last year, female students at a charter school in North Carolina challenged their school's dress code, which required that all female students wear skirts to school. On June 26, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a U.S. Court of Appeals decision about that case, which ruled in favor of the students' rights. A link to the Student Press Law Center's report on that decision is [HERE](#).

THE LESSON: WHAT RIGHTS DO STUDENTS HAVE?

While this decision may be specific to charter schools and dress codes, it raises a larger question about what First Amendment rights students have (or don't have) in the first place. Have students discuss in small groups what they think they can or can't cover. [Here's a link to some scenarios](#) for them to consider.

WHAT'S THE SPLC?

The Student Press Law Center promotes, supports and defends the First Amendment and free press rights of student journalists and their advisers. Founded in 1974, the nonprofit, nonpartisan SPLC is based in Washington, D.C. Go to the [SPLC website](#) for more.

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG

Overview of the First Amendment

Description

Students will learn the five freedoms as guaranteed by the First Amendment. Students will collaborate on what they know about the First Amendment and its relevance to their lives. Students also will examine how this document has remained relevant. This is the first lesson in the law and ethics unit.

Objectives

- Students will learn and understand the five freedoms outlined in the First Amendment.
- Students will begin to see how these freedoms are present in their lives.
- Students will understand how the First Amendment, which was written more than 200 years ago, has withstood the test of time.

The link

The link to the full lesson is [HERE](#). NOTE: This lesson is available free to **everyone** during the dates listed at the top of this page. Want to have access all the time? If you're not a member yet, consider joining JEA today for access to all of the resources.



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Bell-Ringer: Find Daily Inspiration

Mitch Eden, MJE, Kirkwood (Missouri) HS, retired



Monday

Look at an awesome photo and discuss its merits.

Tuesday

Read a great lede and discuss its construction.

Wednesday

Look at a great design and break it down into its components.

Thursday

Check out something great on social media, video, etc.

"I'm always looking to bring inspiration into the classroom to generate ideas (and steal ... err ... borrow). I grab anything from the New York Times or Best of SNO. I model, then the editors do it."

You've Got Style

Suggestions from Cindy*

TIMES

Do this:

4 a.m.
7:30 p.m.
noon
midnight

Not that:

4:00 a.m.
7:30 p.m. tonight
12 noon
Midnight

- Use figures except for noon and midnight.
- Use a colon to separate hours from minutes.
- The a.m. or p.m. are lowercase with periods. No spaces between the letters and periods, but treat the meridiem indicator like a word with a space between the numeral and the indicator. From the Latin, "ante meridiem" (before noon) and "post meridiem" (after noon).

* Style pro Cindy Horchem, CJE, is a retired adviser and the current JEA business and projects coordinator