

This Week's Focus: Scholastic Journalism Week

Feb. 22 marks the sixth annual Student Press Freedom Day, and this week is Scholastic Journalism Week, which means there's no better time to highlight the Student Press Law Center. According to the [SPLC's website](#), student journalists and their supporters across the United States will spend this week raising awareness of the challenges they face, celebrating their contributions to their schools and communities and taking actions to protect and restore their First Amendment freedoms.

THE LESSON: Take action for student press rights

The SPLC provides a Top 10 list of ways for schools to advocate for student press freedom. See the entire list [HERE](#). Here are a few of the highlights.

Think Local. Learn about the state of student press freedom where you live and what bold journalism and brave advocacy looks like in your community.

Talk with your school. Whether your state has a New Voices law or not, your district policies can help protect you. Learn more about district policies and reach out to your administrators and school board to talk about updating your district policy.

Craft an Opinion Piece. Op-eds have the power to change hearts and minds, so why not draft one? Tell your community why student press freedom matters to you and why it should matter to them too.

Take the Quiz. Do you know when you are engaging in self-censorship? Are you sure? Test your knowledge with [this quiz](#), share with your newsroom and learn how to better identify and resist self-censorship.

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG: SPLC Presentation, Freedom of Information

Description

Students will learn about the importance of access to information as well as obtaining access to public records and meetings. Students will be taken through the types of Freedom of Information categories as well as exemptions.

Objectives

- Students will learn the basics of the Freedom of Information Act.
- Students will understand the exemptions to the FOI Act.
- Students will learn how to make FOI requests.

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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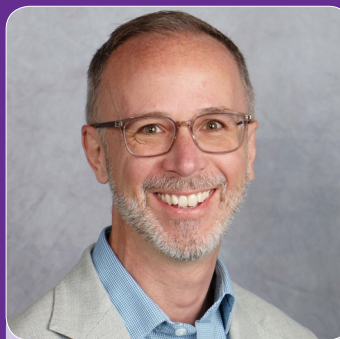
Logan Aimone, MJE, University of Chicago Laboratory High School

KNOW MEDIA LAW AND TEACH IT

Like many challenging areas in life, knowledge can be part of prevention and a solution. Make room every year for teaching media law basics to beginners and new developments to advanced students. Media law is a special area of interest to me, but every adviser should commit to developing some legal expertise to teach and advise their students and others.

Start with teaching libel and copyright. These areas aren't abstract. Your students will likely encounter these two legal areas most frequently — from claims made in a quote to finding a fair use image to accompany a review. Recent lawsuits regarding defamation and copyright make the topics timely, while advances in generative artificial intelligence have made understanding them even more important. Build on these legal concepts with basics about the key court cases.

In addition to traditional assessments, I require beginning students to memorize and recite the First Amendment. It sticks with them years later: One day in my advanced class, something prompted a student to start reciting, and her peers soon joined in chorus. They were proud — I was heartened.



Early in my career I learned the importance of teaching students the First Amendment, landmark Supreme Court cases, libel, copyright and ethics. My students knew their rights and responsibilities. When they had to defend their rights several times, they prevailed. After a brush with censorship, I decided that no one at school was going to know more than me about student press law.

You've Got Style

Suggestions from Cindy*

COMMON MISSPELLINGS

Here are a few examples of words from the first half of the alphabet that you can find in the AP Stylebook that are listed to help users with spelling. In some cases, the listing is the AP preference and not the only way it can be spelled.

<i>ABCs</i>	<i>Canada goose</i>
<i>aesthetic</i>	<i>cannot</i>
<i>alma mater</i>	<i>cellphone</i>
<i>bedbug</i>	<i>daytime</i>
<i>bobblehead</i>	<i>defendant</i>
<i>boo-boo</i>	<i>dietitian</i>

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