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Free speech 2017 event journal

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**“Congress shall make no law...
abridging the freedom of speech.”**

**—“The Constitution of the United States.”
Amendment 1.**

...but what exactly does that right entail?

FREEDOM OF SPEECH INCLUDES THE RIGHT:

Not to speak

(specifically, the right not to salute the flag).

— West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624 (1943).

Of students to wear black armbands to school to protest a war (“Students do not shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gate.”).

— Tinker v. Des Moines, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

To use certain offensive words and phrases to convey political messages.

— Cohen v. California, 403 U.S. 15 (1971).

To contribute money (under certain circumstances) to political campaigns.

— Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976).

To advertise commercial products and professional services (with some restrictions).

— Virginia Board of Pharmacy v. Virginia Consumer Council, 425 U.S. 748 (1976);
Bates v. State Bar of Arizona, 433 U.S. 350 (1977).

To engage in symbolic speech, (e.g., burning the flag in protest).

— Texas v. Johnson, 491 U.S. 397 (1989);
United States v. Eichman, 496 U.S. 310 (1990).

FREEDOM OF SPEECH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RIGHT:

To incite actions that would harm others (e.g., “[S]hout[ing] ‘fire’ in a crowded theater.”).

— Schenck v. United States, 249 U.S. 47 (1919).

To make or distribute obscene materials.

— Roth v. United States, 354 U.S. 476 (1957).

To burn draft cards as an anti-war protest.

— United States v. O'Brien, 391 U.S. 367 (1968).

To permit students to print articles in a school newspaper over the objections of the school administration.

— Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).

Of students to make an obscene speech at a school-sponsored event.

— Bethel School District #43 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).

Of students to advocate illegal drug use at a school-sponsored event.

— Morse v. Frederick, __ U.S. __ (2007).

Historically, college campuses have been hotbeds of political activism and free speech. This tradition continues today.

In this book, we encourage you to write out your thoughts. Hopes, fears, dreams — it can be anything.

Perhaps you'd like to respond to the quotations scattered throughout this book — or perhaps not.

After all, who are we to censor your freedom of speech?

**Sincerely,
Anya Fasolyak,
Mugar Greene Scholar.**

“Freedom of speech is a principle pillar of a free government: When this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved.”

—Benjamin Franklin, US Founding Father

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.”

—George Orwell, author of 1984

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

—Thomas Jefferson, US Founding Father

“You can’t have a university without having free speech, even though at times it makes us terribly uncomfortable. If students are not going to hear controversial ideas on college campuses, they’re not going to hear them in America. I believe it’s part of their education.”

**—Donna Shalala,
United States Secretary
of Health and Human Services (1993–2001)**

“If you’re not going to use your free speech to criticize your own government, then what the hell is the point of having it?”

—Michelle Templet, author of White Rose

“The political core of any movement for freedom in the society has to have the political imperative to protect free speech.”

– Bell Hooks, author and feminist

**“Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter.”**

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

**“Beware: open-mindedness will often say,
‘Everything is permissible except a sharp opinion.’”**

– Criss Jami, author of Killosophy

“The freedom of speech and the freedom of the press have not been granted to the people in order that they may say the things which please, and which are based upon accepted thought, but the right to say the things which displease, the right to say the things which may convey the new and yet unexpected thoughts, the right to say things, even though they do a wrong.”

– Samuel Gompers, U.S. labor leader

Thank you for participating!

