

Why Free Speech Matters

Discussion: Answer the questions based on the video and information sheet, "Why Free Speech Matters." What is your opinion on free speech and expression?

1. The 1st Amendment gives Americans the right to express themselves and their thoughts without fear of repercussion. Opponents suggest it opens the door for hate speech. Which do you think is the stronger argument, and why?

2. The idea behind freedom of speech is that everyone, no matter their opinion, has a right to express it. How is this beneficial to minority opinions that might not sit favorably with the majority of people? Provide some examples of how this has helped with social issues throughout history.

3. Why do you think the Founding Fathers wrote freedom of speech into the Bill of Rights? Do you think their reasoning still applies in today's world?



4. Should speech be regulated by the government? If so, how much and how would such rules be enforced?

5. Imagine freedom of speech was taken away: how would this impact your life? How would it affect American citizens?
