

## THE FIVE FREEDOMS OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Objective(s): The students will

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of the five freedoms guaranteed in the First Amendment.
2. Enhance their critical thinking skills through the use of analysis and evaluation.
3. Communicate their thoughts in oral and written form.

TEKS: SS K.8A, 14 A&B, 15A, 1.11A, 17A, 18 A&B, 2.18A&E, 19A&B

Materials: An overhead transparency of Attachment 1; a copy of Attachment 1, cut into strips, for each student in the class; copies of Attachment 2 for each student

Vocabulary: Assemble, Bill of Rights, Constitution, speech, petition, press, religion, right

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students to describe what their school would be like without rules. Discuss how school rules establish order, enable students to learn, keep students safe, and help manage student behavior.
2. Explain that the rules or main laws of our country are written down in a document called the Constitution. Tell students that the Constitution has a Bill of Rights. Ask students if they know what a "right" is. Lead students to conclude that a "right" is something you are entitled to and no one can take away from you.
3. Inform students that the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution on in 1791. Bill of Rights Day is on December 15, and the Bill of Rights will be 215 years old this year.
4. Display an overhead transparency of the First Amendment attachment. Explain each right to students and discuss any or all of the following questions:

### Freedom of Religion

- Should the government have anything to say about your religious beliefs? Why or why not?

### Freedom of Speech

- Does freedom of speech mean you can say anything to anyone, anywhere and at any time? Explain.

- What do you do if you disagree with something someone says?
- Why do we need rules about talking at school and at home?
- How would your life change if you did not have the right to talk to friends about your thoughts and feelings?

#### Freedom of the Press

- Since citizens have freedom of the press, can you name some of the ways information and ideas are put into printed form? (Newspapers, Internet, magazines, books, ads, bumper stickers, T-shirts, banners, etc.)
- How would your life change if you could not receive information from television, books, or the Internet?
- Are there some things that should not be printed for everyone to read?

#### Right to Assemble

- On what occasions do you meet with friends or other people in groups?
- Why is it important that you have the right to assemble in groups?

#### Right to Petition the Government

- If you were to ask the government to change something that you think is wrong or unfair, what would your petition say?

5. Give each student a set of First Amendment cards (Attachment 1), cut into separate strips. Have students place the 5 freedoms strips in order of importance to them. Students should arrange the strips from the most important to the least important. (Remind students that there is not a right or wrong way to arrange their cards. Their arrangement should be based on their opinion.)
6. Lead a discussion concerning the freedom students considered to be the most important and least important. The teacher may wish to keep a tally of student's choices on the board.
7. Inform students that they are going to have to give up the freedom/right that they chose as the most important. Have students crumble up their freedom/right and throw the piece of paper in the trash can.
8. Have students complete Attachment 2, by filling in the name of the freedom/right they threw away and by explaining how their lives would change without that freedom/right.

<p>Extension for Gifted/talented: Have students create a song that tells about the five freedoms of the First Amendment. It can be to the tune of a familiar song.</p>
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## FIRST AMENDMENT



Freedom of Religion: The right to believe and worship as you wish.

Freedom of Speech: The right to express your ideas freely.



Freedom of the Press: The right to put your ideas in printed form.

Right to Assemble: The freedom to meet with people in groups.



Right to Petition: The freedom to ask the government to correct things that are unfair.

Without

my life would be

because

