



Polk County Bar Association

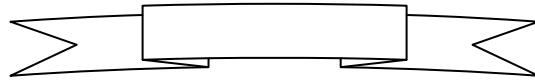
Law Day Celebration Luncheon

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

*Judicial Branch Building
1111 East Court Avenue*

Des Moines, Iowa

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Lunch in the Light Court

*Welcome and Introduction of Dignitaries
David W. Nelmark, PCBA President*

Speakers:

*Justice Susan Christensen
Iowa Supreme Court*

*Eric Hanson
KCCI Des Moines*

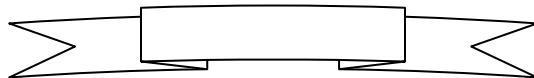
*Courtney Crowder
Des Moines Register Columnist*

*Laura Belin
Bleeding Heartland Blog*

*PCBA and ARAG® Law Day Contest Winners
Awards Ceremony in Courtroom
and Photos with Sponsors*

Closing Remarks

Optional Tour of the Building and Grounds



Polk County Bar Association & ARAAG® 2019 Law Day Competition

Each year the American Bar Association and the Polk County Bar Association recognizes Law Day to help foster education and a deeper understanding of the legal system. This year's theme, "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society," provides the opportunity for students to explore these First Amendment rights.

Students were encouraged to express, through poetry, essay, visual art, technology, or music and performing arts, the impact of free speech and free press.

The Law Day Committee consistently focuses its efforts on reaching a wide variety of students in order to educate them about the law and nurture their creative expression. Again this year, the Law Day Committee teamed up with ARAAG Insurance Co. for this event. In doing so, we were able to incorporate elementary school students from Polk County into our competition. We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Polk County Bar Association for its continuing support of the Law Day program. We would like to thank the following committee members:

Amanda Adams, Kala Anderson, James Bryan, Emily Chafa, Judge Joseph Ferrentino, Sonja Diener, Shanon Hounshell, Margaret Johnson, Laura Lockwood, Stephanie Maret, Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski, Carol Phillips, Cynthia Rybolt, Daniel Saar, Judge Gail Sheridan-Lucht, Judge Mary Tabor. Special thanks to Iowa Legal Aid AmeriCorps member Dariann Garrison-Nickerson for creating the PowerPoint presentation we are viewing today.

Enjoy the fruits of the students' creative labors!

*Kala Anderson and Stephanie Maret, Co-Chairs
Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee*

LAW ★ DAY
2019



The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association & ARAG® 2019 Law Day Competition

Elementary School Coloring Competition, Grades K-2

1st Place – Johnny Zambreno, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
2nd Place – Charlotte Simonis, Waukee Elementary School
3rd Place – Emma Hall, Hanawalt Elementary School

Elementary School Coloring Competition, Grades 3-5

1st Place – Maya Falcone, Fairmeadows Elementary School, West Des Moines
2nd Place – Raegan Reuter, Fairmeadows Elementary School, West Des Moines
3rd Place – Brittany Trogdon, Fairmeadows Elementary School, West Des Moines

Elementary School Poetry Competition, Grades 3-5

1st Place – Asher Richmond, Timber Ridge Elementary School, Johnston

Elementary School Essay Competition, 4th Grade

1st Place – Ben Roberts, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Elyse Rinehart, Timber Ridge Elementary School, Johnston
3rd Place – Aleena Wilt Fang, Timber Ridge Elementary School, Johnston

Elementary School Essay Competition, 5th Grade

1st Place – Joey Zambreno, Bergman Academy, Des Moines
2nd Place – Kalyani Bhat, Northeast Elementary School, Ankeny
3rd Place – Zoey Osmundson, Southeast Elementary School, Ankeny

The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association & ARAAG® 2018 Law Day Competition

Elementary School Poster Competition, Grades K-2

1st Place – Tessa Zambreno, Bergman Academy, Des Moines

Elementary School Poster Competition, 4th Grade

1st Place – Madison Greer, Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Harrison Kurth, Timber Ridge Elementary School, Johnston

Elementary School Poster Competition, 5th Grade

1st Place – Ethan Mosdal, Ashland Ridge Elementary School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Olivia Luna, Southeast Elementary School, Ankeny
3rd Place Riley Kayser, Southeast Elementary School, Ankeny

Elementary School Visual Arts/Technology Competition

1st Place Edie Mae Lenig – East Elementary School, Ankeny
2nd Place Maia Bredice – Ashland Ridge Elementary School, Ankeny
3rd Place Sienna Townsend and Emily Conger – Westwood Elementary School, Ankeny

Best Teacher Participation Prizes, Grades K-5

Ms. Leslie Mitchell, Timber Ridge Elementary School, Johnston
Ms. Rhonda Koerselman, Fair Meadows Elementary School, West Des Moines
Ms. Marcy Conover, Ashland Ridge Elementary School, Ankeny

The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association & ARAAG® 2019 Law Day Competition

Middle School Poetry Competition

1st Place – Emma Calabro – Northview Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Gunnar Bailey – Bondurant-Farrar Middle School
3rd Place – Shaniya Johnson – Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Essay Competition

1st Place – Kate Bergan – Northview Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Grace Lohse – Bondurant-Farrar Middle School
3rd Place – Alexis Samson – Northview Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Visual Arts Competition

1st Place – Meghan Wolf – Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Ashley Guzman – Northview Middle School, Ankeny
3rd Place (tie) – Sophie Giles – Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
3rd Place (tie) – Dylan Weaver – Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Music and Performing Arts Competition

1st Place – Jillian Scroggs – Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
2nd Place – Esaba Okwaramoi – St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines
3rd Place – Noah Yeager – Parkview Middle School, Ankeny

Middle School Technology Competition

1st Place – John Powers – Bondurant-Farrar Middle School
2nd Place – Tyler VanderLinden – Bondurant-Farrar Middle School

The Polk County Bar Association Law Day Committee
presents
Polk County Bar Association & ARAAG® 2019 Law Day Competition

High School Poetry Competition

1st Place – Isabelle Friedman – North Polk High School, Alleman
2nd Place – Maria Epperly – Valley High School, West Des Moines
3rd Place (tie) - Lawrence Deng – Centennial High School, Ankeny
3rd Place (tie) - Kathryn Grilli – Valley High School, West Des Moines

High School Essay Competition

1st Place – James Meng – Valley High School, West Des Moines
2nd Place – Jacob Gates – Valley High School, West Des Moines
3rd Place (tie) – Isabelle Friedman – North Polk High School, Alleman
3rd Place (tie) – Kaya Williams – Valley High School, West Des Moines

High School Visual Arts Competition

1st Place – Maddie Carleton – Northview, Ankeny
2nd Place – Radha Velamuri – Valley High School, West Des Moines
3rd Place – Allison Su – Centennial High School, Ankeny

High School Technology Competition

1st Place – Chloe Gayer – Northview, Ankeny

Best Teacher Participation Prizes

Ms. Jessica Gogerty, Bondurant-Farrar Middle School
Ms. Bayle Larpenteur, Prairie Ridge Middle School, Ankeny
Mr. Daniel Kelly, Valley High School, West Des Moines
Ms. Kathryn Cooper, Northview High School, Ankeny

Thank you to the following sponsors for their generous donations, which make the Law Day event possible, and a rewarding experience for students and teachers!

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<i>Margaret E. Johnson</i>	<i>Judge Mary Tabor</i>
<i>Johnston Martineau, L.L.P.</i>	<i>Judge Anuradha Vaitheswaran</i>
<i>Tom Levis</i>	<i>Emily and Nick Webb</i>

The Freedom of Speech and the Freedom of the Press

By Joey Zambreno

The freedom of speech is the right to speak about issues and the government cannot punish you. The freedom of the press is the right for journalists to write what they believe. In some cases, the freedom of press or freedom of speech will not protect you. If something you write or say is not true, there may be consequences, such as getting thrown in jail. Our founding fathers put the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights because they believed that it was one of the most important ones. They did this because they did not want only one king to be able to make the rules but allow everyone to be able to voice their opinions.

The freedom of speech is the right to speak freely about our opinions without the government trying to stop us. One purpose of free speech is to be able to discuss politics and policies. One example of an important United States Supreme Court case is *Tinker v. Des Moines*. The Court said that students that wore black armbands to protest the Vietnam War was a form of speech and was therefore protected by the freedom of speech because they were speaking their minds about the war. This case was decided on February 24, 1969 and we just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ruling.

The freedom of the press is the right to write your opinions without the government being able to punish you. This is important because you should be able to write what you think, as long as it is true. But if what you write is not true, you can get sued. An example of a Supreme Court case is *New York Times v. United States*. In this case, the government tried to prevent The New York Times and Washington Post Co. from printing a document with information about the Vietnam War. This document was called the Pentagon Papers. The Supreme Court ruled that The New York Times was allowed to print these papers. This case was important because the public has the right to certain information.

The freedom of speech and the freedom of the press are important to a free society because others might want to hear your opinions through writing and speech. Others might even form new opinions after listening to you.

Why are Free Press, Speech, and Society important to us as Americans? First, we have to understand what we as America believe in. America is based on democracy, the power to choose our government and for our government to put our thoughts into consideration. I believe that Freedom of Press, Speech, and Society is a key factor in American democracy.

Freedom of Speech is important because it allows everyday citizens to express their thoughts and opinions. Freedom of Speech gives a voice to the people who want to speak out to make things better or to support the changes. That is a basic right if you want to have a working democracy. When people speak out they can express different viewpoints to the government. If you want to have a good democracy you have to know what your citizens want and need, and I believe Freedom of Speech is a way to recognize those things. An example of Freedom of Speech is this essay, I am speaking with all three of these amendments. All in all Freedom of Speech is every person's right and helps make a change in our country.

Freedom of Press is important to democracy because it lets citizens understand things about their government which then allows them to speak against or with it. When the press gives the information to the citizens it allows them to truly understand things about the people they vote for, the laws they want or don't want to be passed, and what the government is doing to help them. They have to be able to understand what is happening in their country to have democracy, and Freedom of Press is a way to give them access to that information. To be able to express their thought to the government, citizens have to know what is going on and why it is happening, Freedom of Press is the best way to allow them that right.

Freedom of Society I feel is one of the things that makes America stand out as a country. In America when people use Freedom of Society they have a right to resources and knowledge so they can reach their potential. Sadly, in Third World Countries people don't have access to knowledge and education. Knowledge is freedom because with the power of knowledge you can truly change the world. You shouldn't take knowledge for granted because somewhere out there is a child with no

access to knowledge. I feel when America makes Freedom of Society an important thing it is helping change the world.

In conclusion, Freedom of Speech, Press, and Society makes America have more democracy and help change the world for the better. You should always be thankful for these amendments because without them the United States would be different and most likely not for the better. After reading this essay go out and exercise your rights and change the world for the better!

Student: Kaylani Bhat

Teacher: Erin Bouda

School: Northeast Elementary, Ankeny, IA

Asher Richmond

Our first amendment makes me happy because we can have our own religion our own speech and free press.

Our own religion,

Our own speech,

Free speech.

One reason our first amendment makes me happy is free press.

The government doesn't pick what we watch,

We can read what we want, and we can watch what we want on the news.

Another reason our first amendment makes me happy is

Free speech for example.

We speak for ourselves,

We have our own speech,

And we can speak for people.

The last reason our first amendment makes me happy is our own religion.

Cristan,

Jewish,

And Hindu .

THE END.

Law Day

The five different branches of the first amendment are freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom of petition, and freedom of assembly. And in some way all of these connect to your life.

The first branch I'm going to talk about is freedom of speech which means your able to talk as long as it's peaceful and you're able to share your opinion of things.

In my life it is important because if we didn't have freedom of speech I couldn't share my opinions at school and when we have a problem I couldn't share my opinion if we didn't have freedom of speech.

The second branch of the first amendment is freedom of press which means that newspaper makers can protest and share news peacefully.

This relates to my life because then I'm able to look and see what's going on around the world.

The third part of freedom is freedom of religion which means that you can be any religion and live in the U.S. and not be made fun of because of your religion.

This means a lot to me because if we didn't have freedom of religion I wouldn't be able to go to church with my family and that would be bad.

The fourth part of the first amendment is freedom of petition which means people can have a position and have people sign the petition and have a voice in some laws.

This relates to my life because if we didn't have freedom of petition then there would be lots of fights because the people didn't have a say.

The last branch of the first amendment is freedom of assembly which means that people can group up for anything peaceful.

If we didn't have freedom of assembly then we could not rally and give an opinion.

Thanks for reading

by Ben Roberts

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE SOCIETY

By: Elyse Rinehart

The first amendment is a very helpful in many different ways to many different people.

One example of this is that people migrate here for a better life all the time and bring cultures and religion and traditions with them. So having the choice of free rights is very useful for them.

Another is that women weren't allowed to vote for a long time. They also didn't get paid as much as men did. Back then they didn't think that was fair so they protested until they got to vote and have the same rights as men.

Last is we have rights to say what we want. That doesn't mean you go up to someone and say something mean, because along with free speech there is also responsibility. So just because you can say what you want doesn't mean that you should.

So in conclusion the first amendment is one of the most helpful things provided by the government.

THE END!

The 1st Amendment

Without the first Amendment our lives would be totally be different because we wouldn't have free speech, we wouldn't have freedom of religion and most of all we wouldn't have freedom to protest.

First, we wouldn't have free speech. Why this effects us is if we didn't have free speech we couldn't wear whatever we wanted. We also couldn't write a blog. We couldn't even color your hair non natural colors, or any other way of expressing yourself!

Second, we wouldn't have freedom of religion. This means if you didn't believe in the religion our state told you to believe in you had to practice that religion anyway. Or if you believed in one kind of religion that the state wanted you to believe in you couldn't change your religion. Also if you didn't want to have a religion at all you would still have to believe in a religion.

My third and final reason is we wouldn't have the freedom to protest. My reasons for this is if I thought people shouldn't be able to play Bitlife I couldn't protest about it, I couldn't share my opinion! Or if I didn't approve of a new law or if I wanted to have the freedom to protest I couldn't protest about it!

That is why without the first Amendment our lives would be Totally different.

Free Speech

By Zoey Osmundson

I believe that free speech should continue to be a right that Americans have. Free speech has been an important part of our history. Take slavery for example. Many people had to stand up and say something for slavery to end. There are a lot of things in our world that people are standing up against right now. Without that right, things would not change, like slavery. I think that people should have that right to say what they believe because everyone has different opinions and thoughts. Sometimes we jump to conclusions and don't even think about other opinions. When people speak out against issues, we can get a whole other perspective on things. Before women could vote, men didn't think anything of it until people stood up and said what they believed. Look how those women said what they believed and changed the law that we still have in place today.

When there are things up for debate, speaking out for or against it may change the entire issue into something that no one had ever thought about. If you are really passionate about something, you should be able to talk about the issue with other citizens, instead of keeping it in and not saying anything. Imagine if the famous people, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., didn't say anything and kept silent. That would have a huge impact on our world today. There are many issues that still go unsolved. Many of those problems are being talked about and debated right now. That is how many people solve problems, by debating about how best to go about solving these problems.

I use the right to free speech in my everyday life, too. When I wanted a cell phone, I talked about it with my parents. It did not change the "laws" of my home, but they did take that into consideration when they wanted to change the law. By using that right, I was able to say what I believed and I wasn't in trouble for it. It can be a very powerful thing, whether it's dealing with your home rules or the state laws. It may not change the laws right away, but the law makers will take that into consideration when they decide to change the law. We still have to respect the rights of others, but we can "agree to disagree" without hostility. That is why America is such a great place to live.

I strongly believe that free speech should continue to be a right to American's. It has been an important part of our history, and it allows people to express themselves and change many unfair laws. It also gives us opportunities to express ourselves without getting in trouble for it. That is why I think free speech should continue to be a right that Americans have.

I am incredibly blessed to know that so long as I live in this country, regardless of race, gender, or class, I can enjoy the privilege to speak out against injustice and advocate for the preservation of my rights. Enshrined in our Constitution, the freedom of speech serves as the cornerstone for our country's great democracy.

Growing up as a minority student, my parents feared that I would face challenges in expressing my beliefs. I quickly realized that this was not the case. America, at its heart, protects equal representation and treatment. There is a reason the freedom of speech was the first liberty guaranteed by our Bill of Rights. Because of this, I will always be able to speak true to myself. The freedom of speech has enabled and empowered me to raise awareness in my community towards the issues minorities face. Freedom of speech lets my voice be heard.

I am reminded of this privilege every day at school. In 1969, the Supreme Court ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines* that students like myself do not shed our freedom of speech in pursuit of education. The decision not only reflected our nation's core values, but also showed commitment to the growth of students set on making a difference in society. It allows me to look at the world with fresh eyes and honors that I will never have viewpoints imposed upon me.

Unfortunately, the freedom of speech is not universally preserved. In my life I have seen the suppression of this right around the world. China, Cuba, North Korea, and several others all maintain a rigorous grip on the content the press and other individuals may speak on. But I know how lucky I am to live in the United States. Here our freedom of speech is special.

It is why I and countless others today can proudly speak for what we believe in.

It is why our country continues to lead the world in the face of global conflict.

The freedom of the speech and press provides the foundation for our great society, and its value continues to pay dividends that we as citizens may never fully realize, but will forever appreciate.

James Meng

The Sacred Fruit Jacob Gates

Freedom of speech in a democracy means that governments must justify powers before they can be exercised, and then those powers may only be exercised in the ways that the people desire. Countries which do not have freedom of speech almost inevitably become dictatorships, and countries which repeal the right to free speech tend to become dictatorships.

Stalin, for example, was able to use force without first acquiring the will of the Russian people because the Soviet government replaced an already tyrannical Tsarist government. Once Stalin had gained enough power within his own party, the only party in Russia, he was able to massacre his political rivals, and by the time of the Great Purge, Stalin had already killed millions of "Kulak" farmers. While Stalin supplemented his power with propaganda, the coercive power predated him.

Hitler, on the other hand, was essentially powerless in the free Germany of 1920. When he first attempted to coup the Weimar Republic in the Beer Hall Putsch, he was placed in jail. The Nazi use of coercion to get their way had to be introduced slowly and carefully. The big division within the Nazi Party in its early stages was between the SS and SA (brownshirts). Hitler sided with the SS because the brownshirts were unpredictable in their use of violence. It was the SA, for example, who would beat up Jews and Communists on the streets of Berlin, which was generally unpopular at the time, and the brownshirts who executed the Kristallnacht. Because the Nazis could not immediately use raw military strength to impose their views on the great majority of Germans, Hitler relied on rhetoric in the early stages to build the Nazi party until he could use sheer power to enforce his views and his prejudices. Once in power, the Nazis immediately went to work creating a Gestapo, promoting propaganda, and censoring political rivals.

This reality makes the idea of censorship appealing. After all, we do not need to worry about another Hitler if he never has a pen or microphone. But the fundamental bet that the founders made was that the American people would see through lies by being exposed to and protecting all points of view. No country which lacks the freedom of speech can be called a free country, and countries which have freedom of speech tend to be better overall.

The calls in the United States for censorship today are the most disturbing aspects of our modern politics. Once a government decides that some points of view may be censored, no matter how egregious and offensive those views seem, it has planted a timebomb for all the other freedoms. In a government of men over men, the freedom of speech must be the sacred fruit because it is the freedom which protects all freedoms. When that freedom is betrayed, it is only a matter of time before a new government is elected, and then there is no safeguard against tyranny.

Freedom of Silence
By Kaya Williams

When asked whether Americans have freedom of speech or expression, we automatically answer 'yes'. It's in our Bill Of Rights after all, and without it no country is truly free. However, recent occurrences have put that into question.

What would it mean for a student to infringe upon another's right to freedom of speech?

The question seems ludicrous, but it applies to a Washington University policy related to freedom of expression on campus. To put this in context, this happened after student protests of Milo Yiannopoulos in Georgia State University forced the college to cancel his speech.

"Increasingly, when conservatives make their points, they are told, whether directly or in a roundabout way, 'Shut up, you're a bad person,'" Stated the co-author of the legislation.

But is that violating free speech? Should telling people to 'shut up' or calling them bad people because of their beliefs be counted as being against freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech and expression is freedom of government interference with your ability to speak against them. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The key word is Congress. Private entities or individuals are under no obligation to listen to you. If they wish to, they are aloud to punish you. ABC can legally fire Roseanne Barr, the NFL can legally fire Kapernick. College students should be able to legally protest someone speaking on campus. That being said, the college is also legally aloud to expel students for whatever they desire as a private entity.

This is important because it dissociates the private entity(ies) from the individual who stated that belief which stops the private entity(ies) from facing the backlash that letting said individual speak could bring them. It's their choice to do so.

I believe that neither of the sides in this case were doing anything illegal, however there's someone very important with me who disagrees with that.

The President, on March 21st the President signed an Executive Order promoting Free Speech on college campuses. In any normal situation this would do absolutely nothing, the first amendment already applies to college campuses, so the question becomes why sign this order that should ultimately do nothing?

Because, like that policy above, he's not encouraging freedom of speech. He's putting preference of one person's speech (The speaker) over another's (The students.) The President is not a private entity and his actions count as Congress impeding on free speech. It's taking away their right to give social consequences to the speaker's actions. It's forcing private entities to associate themselves with a group, and when they protest that association telling them to shut up.

And that is not freedom of speech, it's repression and preference.

Freedom through the eyes of...

The First Amendment declares:

"Congress shall make no law,
Abridging freedom of speech."
But how free are we, really?

To talk about what's right,
And what's wrong,
When our opinions are never right,
Never correct,
In accordance with anyone else's.

How free do we get to be,
When people get bullied based on their religion,
On their gender or size,
Or because of who they love,
Or their relationship status?
And people decide it's easier to get angry,
Than to *consider* changing *their* point of view.

It's easier to stay ignorant.
To be afraid of what's different,
And to hide behind the idea of
"I can say what I like,
For it's protected by my government."

But what is forgotten,
Is it's not only your government.
It also belongs to the Muslims and the Christians,
The unwanted,
The women and men,
The fat and thin, the straight and the queer,
The single mothers, working to make the lives of their children,
Better than theirs were before.

It's a free government for everyone,
Not just for those who think the same as you.
Really; how free are we?

Kathryn Grilli

Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society
Maria Epperly

In the past, she slew dragons
She burned holes through their flesh
And cut scales off their backs
All so that she could open her mouth.

She fought wars with her sisters
Holding up signs like dumbbells
And the weight of her identity like chains
All so that her daughters could live
Without injustice.

In the present,
Her daughters wield their voices like knives
Burning away oppression
With their words instead of violence.

They fight hand in hand
Women rising to power
Using the strength their mothers handed down
The liberties our government gifted them
The freedoms that
They deserved.

Reflection: For my poem, I decided to incorporate a more feminist feel for the given topic. In the past, women were not given the same liberties as men, whether it be freedom of speech, freedom to choose a career for themselves, or even the freedom to vote. In my poem, I express that in the past, women had to fight for what they wanted using rallies and protests as a means of speech. The women back then fought for the freedoms us women in the present have now. In a world where, as a woman, I can now vote, speak, and write freely.

Kate Bergan
Northview Middle School
8th Grade

Minersville School District v. Gobitis and West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette From the Perspective of the American Flag

PART ONE

Lillian and William Gobitas did not salute to me during the pledge of allegiance at their school in 1935 because they are Jehovah's Witnesses. They got expelled because it was part of the school's daily exercise. The students' father, Walter Gobitas, decided to take the case to court because he felt it violated his children's first amendment rights. It made its way to Supreme Court and is known as Minersville v. Gobitis (Yes, the court did spell the students last name wrong in the official documenting). The school won in an 8-1 decision. The justices argued that the school district's interest in creating national unity was enough to allow them to require students to salute the flag. Harlan Stone was the one justice that went against everyone else. He argued that the students have the freedom by the constitution to think and say what they would like.

PART TWO

It's me, the American Flag. I am back again. Today I am in court for a case in West Virginia. It is March 1943. The Barnette students did not salute or say the pledge of allegiance at school because they are also Jehovah's Witnesses. Their father, Walter Barnette, is representing them in court. He was the one that told his kids not to salute to the flag because it is against their religion. Their case has made it all the way to the Supreme Court. Funny that it's only been 3 years later and we are fighting over the same thing.

It is now June 14th. This time it's not the same. Barnette won his case in a 6 to 3 decision. Minersville had been overruled. After the case was over Justice Robert Jackson stated that "The Court found that the First Amendment cannot enforce a unanimity of opinion on any topic, and national symbols like the flag should not receive a level of deference that trumps constitutional protections". Other people have mentioned that it was because the new flag code that took away the Bellamy Salute had just been put into place. This happened because it was the end of World War II and it was very similar to the Nazi salute.

APPENDIX

September 1st, 2016

Yes, I know you are probably tired of me, but I am back again. The 49ers are at the start of their pre-season games. One man named Colin Kaepernick decided to kneel during the national anthem. It went unnoticed for 2 weeks until the press started asking him questions. More

and more players started to kneel during the anthem. But why? These NFL players are protesting police brutality and racial inequality. This is a widely debated topic that still hasn't gone away today. Some people support this and think that the kneeling is a great way to show the support and the need of change for this issue. Others think that it is not okay and disrespectful to the country and the flag. Although it's not completely the same and there has been no court cases, people are still debating over the same idea 75 years later. In my perspective, as the flag, I believe that it is okay for Colton Kaepernick, other football players, and all students to show what they believe in and stand up for their rights. Everyone has a voice and it should be heard. I am proud that I represent a country that gives freedom to all.

The Flaws In This Creation

To Be Free

The deaf man is slave to ignorance;
The mute man a slave to forced silence.
For to not choose what one may hear,
One cannot learn of what one holds dear;
And to not choose of what one may speak,
One is gagged from thoughts unique.

Freedom does not hide in the shadows,
Nor does it elude us from beyond unseen bars;
Freedom is in the words that one shows,
Freedom is in the lines that come from a bard.
With no free thought, there is no free heart.

So we fight to hear;
We fight to talk;
And to liberty do we swear,
That as long as man still walk,
Upon this world and wear
Some hope or want of liberty,
We will fight and defend our rights

To be free.

Lawrence Deng

Free speech let it leak
Our right, our fight, and what makes us weak
Social media is a freak
Letting opinions spill and presidents tweet
Our clothes, our identity
Gender or sexuality
From the wake of day
To the twilight at night
This is our right

Free press
Some success
Alternative facts
Revoke the pass
Fake news left its bruise
And debates proceed to brew
From CNN to Fox and Friends
They all have their odds and ends

The people
The press
The game with no rest
The fuel to our nation
An occasional abomination
Will it destroy our founding fathers creation?

Emma Calabro
8th grade
Northview Middle School

Grace Lohse
Mrs. Gogerty
Law Day 2019
March 7, 2019

Our Continued Trust for the Press, Even After They Betray America

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." We protect the press, news, and American journalists because of this liberty. The American government guards the press in exchange for the trust of the American people. Every deal has a flaw though, and this is represented by all the instances where American news outlets have betrayed our country, as well as the irony that we continue to trust and protect them despite this.

In 1971, *The New York Times* took full advantage of their First Amendment right with a front-page publication of the *Pentagon Papers*. These reports detailed all of the United States military involvement in the Vietnam War from 1945 to 1967. A lot of the information included in these reports was not known by the public. Daniel Ellsberg, who had been involved with the *Pentagon Papers*, opposed the Vietnam War. He set up discussion with reporters from *The New York Times* and handed over 43 of the classified documents. The *Times*' lawyer advised that the news outlet had a First Amendment right to publish the documents, which they did under the headline "Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces Three Decades of Growing US Involvement."

Another headache for the US government began in April of 2011 when the infamous WikiLeaks teamed up with *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* to roll out The Guantanamo Files. These files, when published, were categorized as "secret" and not to be shared with representatives from other countries. All 779 documents that were leaked detailed the mistreatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, including 150 Afghans and Pakistanis being held without legitimate charges. Additionally, there were reports of a 14-year-old boy being detained in the prison, as well as the unstable physical and mental conditions of the inmates. In the midst of criticism, the United States government released this statement: "It is unfortunate that *The New York Times* and other news organizations have made the decision to publish numerous documents obtained illegally by WikiLeaks concerning the Guantanamo detention facility."

These two examples are among many, where a common denominator is the press taking advantage of classified information for a story. While it is obvious that the government occasionally wants to turn its back to the media, the First Amendment will undeniably always protect the press when they decide to make a risky move. It is also inevitable that the American people, no matter how shady the press may be, will always exercise our right to be informed, knowledgeable, and a part of a free society.

Land of the Free

by Gunnar Bailey

The First Amendment is what started it all
In 1791 Americans had new rights and law
Back in 1969 was a time to remember
As Tinker vs Des Moines started in December
The students protested the Vietnam War
They wore black armbands and opened a door
The school tried to stop them, by suspension
And over time they gained some tension
The students wanted to question the law
They read the constitution and noticed a flaw
They wanted symbolism as a part of freedom of speech
The court ruled with them and decided to teach
They taught the nation that symbolism is allowed
The case had Americans speaking out loud
They got to speak their thoughts and feelings
This had Americans yelling through the ceilings
But not only could Americans use their voice
They could also use free press as a choice
As Americans we have been provided
With many rights that are divided
Now even though the constitution states some rights
Americans can now use symbolism and reach new heights

Song Unsilenced

By: Shaniya Johnson

Humans are the birds,
Their words are their song.
As they soar in the air,
They sing all day long.

Freedom of music is the right given to these birds,
If taken away, their songs go unheard.
They no longer fly,
And the skies turn grey.
As the beautiful little birds,
Are casted away.

Locked in fictional cages,
That binded their beaks and wings.
The lost and lonely birds
Can no longer sing.

Their unique and true notes,
Are taken far away.
They all must sing the same song,
Every night and everyday.

If a bird sings a new note,
They are now shunned upon.
As they fly in the same direction,
it seems as all hope is gone.

Such a devastating thought,
Now I hope that you see.
If you take away our music.
What a travesty that would be.

We are the lucky birds,
Able to sing without fear.
Because our song is unsilenced.

Throughout my entire poem, there are many symbols that appear. The most prominent ones being the birds and their song. This is supposed to represent humans and their voices. Birds sing very different and unique songs so I felt that I was appropriate to use them to represent humans and their individuality. The way that this ties in with the first amendment is that if you were to take away their music, or their voice, they would go unheard and the diversity and individuality would be lost. As stated the third stanza they are locked in fictional cages. Meaning that they aren't obviously locked away but without their songs, their words, they feel as though they are. Eventually they start singing the same song and going in the same direction, not able to be different. The ones that try to be different are shunned upon, which is something that is seen quite a lot in our present day. So we should be very thankful for this first amendment that helps us be true to ourselves and keep our "Song unsilenced."

Freedom of Press in School Newspapers

By: Alexis Samson

In the case of *Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeier*, the Supreme Court decided that schools had the right to choose what can and cannot be included in a school newspaper. Students should be given the freedom of press in school newspapers because an educated student body will be more productive adults. If students are exposed to real world topics before they leave high school, they will be more prepared for adulthood. This also teaches them the value of having different opinions and forming your own opinion.

Students should be given the freedom of press when writing school newspapers because it is important to be introduced to heavy topics before adulthood and it will lead to more success later in life. In an article by Richard Cytowic MD, he states that "Efforts to sugarcoat reality or shield children from harsh truths unintentionally hamper their ability to learn from misfortune and develop the resilience that makes negotiating adult life easier" (Cytowic). If parents and school administrators were to censor everything in newspapers, students would have no exposure to some difficult topics that they will encounter later in life. By showing these things to them from a young age, they will build up skills like resilience and maintaining positivity, which is essential for success later on.

The freedom of press in school newspapers also teaches students the value of differing opinions. In the article "The Importance of Difference in Opinion," the author writes that "Our individuality would be taken away [if everyone thought the same way] and there would be no room for us to grow at all intellectually. Through debates...over controversial topics, we learn new facts and understand why people think the way they do" (Drugan). While reading or writing a school newspaper, students are given an opportunity to consider some of the varying opinions of their peers. This teaches them to appreciate diversity and to learn to get along with people who have different beliefs. Later in life, they will be in situations where they are required to work with people who have different beliefs and they will still have to find a way to cooperate and maintain a good work environment. Building tolerance at a young age through exposure to student run newspapers and the information in them is key to developing this skill.

Some may say that it is up to the school board or parents to decide what is appropriate for students, but there are no guidelines, so who should get to decide? It would be an abuse of power and would go against the First Amendment if administrators and teachers got to decide what can and cannot go in a school newspaper. Freedom of press is "...the right to circulate opinions in print without censorship..." (Schubert). This definition shows that any opinion can be shared through writing without being edited or removed from the newspaper. By only allowing certain articles to be published, that right is being taken away from students.

Freedom of press in school newspapers will help to prepare students for their adult lives and is a right that all students should have. Exposure to real world topics in a controlled environment helps introduce students to these things. Also, this helps them appreciate the opinions of others, even if they are different from their own. In conclusion, the right of freedom of press is not one that should be taken away from students because it helps to set them up for success in adulthood by teaching important life skills.

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Isabelle Friedman

Controlled Chaos

Freedom is like controlled chaos.
Say what you wish,
Print what you wish,
This is a free society.
But what is freedom without its limits?
An inhumane population,
With no moral compass,
And people losing their virtues.
Because everyone can be blinded
By emotions more powerful
Than the wisdom we bear.
Be careful what you say.
Because although you have the freedom,
You don't have the freedom
To escape the consequences.

The Upside Down of Freedom

This is a free society
Say what you please
Print what you wish
It's a good idea
But to not always use your freedom
Would be intolerably stupid
To do whatever you want
That's what this country needs
Control over amplification
Would be a very bad plan
Although to escape your consequences
Is the right thing to do
Understanding the power that comes with freedom
Because we control the world

(Now read from bottom to top)

Isabelle Friedman

Mrs. Wolfe

ELP

29 March 2019

Freedom with Consequences

March 4, 1789. A new government was born in which the people of the United States were to be residing in a free society. The Constitution of the United States came into effect nearly 230 years ago. Freedom was issued and control was proclaimed to be given to the people. The freedoms of the press and speech were the first daring leap towards a free society - a free society that citizens of other nations yearn for.

The ability to print what one wants is something the founders believed inevitable while forming the constitution. Virginia was the first state to protect the press by enacting the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, which stated, in other words, denying the people the freedom of press is a barricade of the rights for all people that is only executed by tyrannies. Thus, James Madison, a delegate of the Constitutional Convention, but later known as the Father of the Constitution, included the freedom of the press in the Constitution. Obstructing the freedom of the press is only a decision to be made upon by weak governments; therefore, to make the country stronger, the government gave the people the freedom of the press.

The freedom of speech is a benchmark of freedom that cannot be breached. In the Constitution, the freedom of speech is very vague, but over the years, throughout many stumping trials, the government has begun to specify what falls into the right of the freedom of speech. For example, people are constitutionally allowed not to salute the flag. However, the freedom of

speech had to be restricted in ways to keep illegal behavior in line. Therefore, people are not allowed to enact harm on others while protesting. The freedom of speech directly protects people from the government. Consequently, if someone notes something on social media that their non-governmental employer does not like, the employer reserves the right to base interviews, raises, and sometimes even firing people off of those obscene comments. Lastly, the freedom of speech allow one the freedom to claim what they desire, but they are not freed from the ramifications that result in their language choices.

Together the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press help build a free society. The freedom of the press or speech cannot be obscured in the United States. However, these rights are taken away when someone does not follow the laws in accordance, or someone misuses the freedom. Although one has the right to speak freely, that does not mean they always should, or they must face the consequences of what they say. As a result, the cherished values of the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press under the first amendment keep the United States a free society. Through a free society, the nation is able to keep order peacefully and work to build a better world.

