

Character and Life Skills

Video Title: Trapped, Self-Management

Lesson Title: Freedom of...?

Grade Level: High School



Project and Purpose

Students write, present, and defend a proposal for an amendment to the US Constitution regarding a new freedom.

Essential Question

Why is it important our guaranteed freedoms are written in an official document (i.e., the US Constitution)?

Note: This will most likely take two sessions for the discussion, draft, and presentations.

Materials

- First amendment of the U.S. Constitution (provided)
- **Note:** An excellent resource to support discussion of the First Amendment can be found on the Legal Information Institute of Cornell University website: www.law.cornell.edu/wex/first_amendment
- Writing materials and/or computer writing programs

Procedure

1. Discuss with class how Americans enjoy many freedoms, many of which are guaranteed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution as adopted into the Bill of Rights in 1791. Post/display the words of the First Amendment and/or have someone read the statement aloud.

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.

2. Ask students:
 - What five freedoms are expressed in the First Amendment?
 - What are the rights associated with each of these freedoms?
 - How have they witnessed these freedoms being practiced in current events in their school, community, and in the nation?
 - Which is the most valuable or which do you value most? Why?
 - What freedom, in their opinion, is missing?

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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