



Questions to ask about importance of a designated public forum

1. What is the importance of a forum for student expression? What does it help teach students and how can it help with a school system's commitment to excellence?
2. What are the plusses and minuses of a school establishing an open forum for student expression? What are educationally valid ways to prevent the minuses?
3. What kind of research and expert opinion is available on the types of forums? What anecdotes and examples exist to help a system decide which one is the best for it?
4. What are the plusses and minuses – educational and legal – for establishing a closed forum? How does it affect student learning, community knowledge and support for education?
5. What are the plusses and minuses – educational and legal – for establishing an open forum? How does it affect student learning, community knowledge and support for education?
6. What are the plusses and minuses – educational and legal – for establishing a limited forum? How does it affect student learning, community knowledge and support for education?
7. Educators feel the designated public forum is the best choice for many reasons. What are negative factual anecdotes, stories, that can balance this view?
8. Why do schools emphasize critical thinking and civic engagement in their mission statements? How do each of the three forum examples interact with school mission statements? What arguments can be made against scholastic journalism that interfere with or prevent student accomplishment of those missions? How can those negatives be best overcome?
9. What legitimate educational mission does prior review accomplish? How can the "fact" that prior review inherently leads to censorship be prevented? How can a community be best convinced that prior review does not interfere with or preclude the free flow of accurate information?
10. What are the most effective ways for a school system to show its students and its communities the working, real value of the First Amendment through its handling of student media?