

Name(s): _____



Student Expression Rights

What are they, exactly?

PART ONE Directions: Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Refer to the article(s) supplied by your teacher or any other documents/research you can access. When in doubt, give the best answer you can.

1. From what does our freedom of speech come from in this country?
2. What are some restrictions the government can put on our freedom of speech?
3. As a student, does the freedom of speech apply to you at school?
4. Can a school punish students for taking part in a walkout protest during the school day?
5. What reasons can a school have for restricting or punishing student speech?
6. What rules does YOUR school have about what students can say or do?
7. How about what students can wear?
8. When it comes to student publications, does your state have a “New Voices” law giving student editors the responsibility for making final decisions about what is published?

PART TWO Directions: Read each of the following scenarios and respond to the accompanying questions. Make sure to tailor your responses to what would or should happen at your OWN school based on what you know.

- 1) **A large number of students organize a walkout during the school day at your own school to protest gun violence. School administrators announce that any students taking part in the protest will be immediately suspended for five days.**

Can they do this? Why or why not?

- 2) **Your school newspaper or newsmagazine writes an editorial arguing in favor of the legalization of marijuana across the country. Hearing about the story, school administrators demand to read it first and then tell students that it cannot be published.**

Can they do this? Why or why not?

- 3) **A group of students want to protest what they say is too much bullying of LGBTQ students as well as the need for the school to designate at least some gender-neutral bathrooms in the building by coming to school with their hair dyed in bright, rainbow colors every day until action is taken.**

Can they do this? Why or why not?

- 4) **Some students decide to bring attention to what they say are racist words or actions from government officials by refusing to stand for the pledge at the start of the school day or the national anthem at the start of any sporting events.**

Can they do this? Why or why not?

PART THREE Directions: Of course, what we decide to say or do comes down to more than just what the law allows. We must also hold ourselves to high ETHICAL standards when deciding how we should express ourselves.

Explain what you should take into consideration when deciding whether do make speech public that you know is legally allowed but may be risky or controversial?