



WELCOME *to the* FIRST AMENDMENT GALLERY!

As you explore the gallery today, you can use this guide to help you take a closer look at the stories shared in the gallery and learn more about this important constitutional provision.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of _____, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; . . .

WHAT ARE THE FIVE FREEDOMS?

At the National Constitution Center, when we learn about a constitutional provision, we always start with the words themselves! **Find the text of the First Amendment and fill in the blanks below for the list of five freedoms** that the First Amendment protects.

Use Your Freedom of Expression!

How will you use your five First Amendment freedoms? **Draw or write in the additional space provided!**

(Remember: Sometimes you can also express yourself by choosing NOT to use these rights.)

. . . or abridging the freedom of _____, . . .

. . . or of the _____, . . .

. . . or the right of the people peaceably to _____, . . .

. . . and to _____ the Government for a redress of grievances.”


FIVE FREEDOMS, FIVE ARTIFACTS

As you explore the exhibit, search for the following artifacts:



**A letter from
George Washington**

This artifact talks about the freedom of:



**An armband with
a peace symbol**

This artifact represents the freedom of:



**A newspaper taking
a stand against slavery**

This artifact represents the freedom of:



**A pennant used in a
protest in Washington, D.C.**

This artifact represents the freedom of:



**A document from
members of the Paiute Tribe**

This artifact represents the right to:

Choose another artifact that
you found in the exhibit and
learn its story:

Artifact:

This artifact represents the freedom of:

RELIGION

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Did you know that the First Amendment protects freedom of religion in two ways? Head to the **Freedom of Religion section** and learn more about each clause.

The _____ Clause

Forbids the government from favoring one religion over another (or religion over non-religion). Also protects against the dangerous union of power between the government and religion.

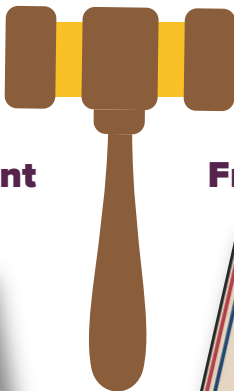
The _____ Clause

Enables individuals, groups, and institutions to freely believe (or not) as they please in regards to religion. Also provides strong protections against religious discrimination.

Find the activity labeled **“Which Clause Is It?”** and read one of the situations described above the wheel.

Circle the clause you think applies in this situation, then spin the gavel to find out if you were right!

Situation:



Establishment

Free-Exercise



photo courtesy of the American Friends Service Committee



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Daniel Andrew Seeger, a pacifist, refused to sign up for the military draft. Under federal law, individuals could claim exemption from military service due to their religious beliefs. The government denied Seeger's request because he was agnostic but he argued that requiring a belief in God for exemption status was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in Seeger's favor.

Next, find the **interactive touchtable**.

Choose an object and learn more about it.

Which object did you select?

How does this object connect to the freedom of religion?

Why do you think freedom of religion is important for everyone?

SPEECH

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Head to the **Freedom of Speech section** and find the **“Free Speech: Then and Now”** timeline.

Choose a year towards the beginning of the timeline and learn about a person who used their speech rights during that early period in American history. Was their speech protected? Do you agree?

Next, find a Supreme Court case from later in history, toward the end of the timeline, and ask yourself the same questions.

	Year: _____	Year: _____
Person		
Were this person's actions interpreted as protected speech?		
Do you agree?		

What does exploring this timeline tell us about free speech protections throughout history?

Select a Story! Watch a video to hear the stories of different individuals and how they exercised their own free speech. Which story was your favorite?



Can you think of a time in your life when you used your freedom of speech?

PRESS

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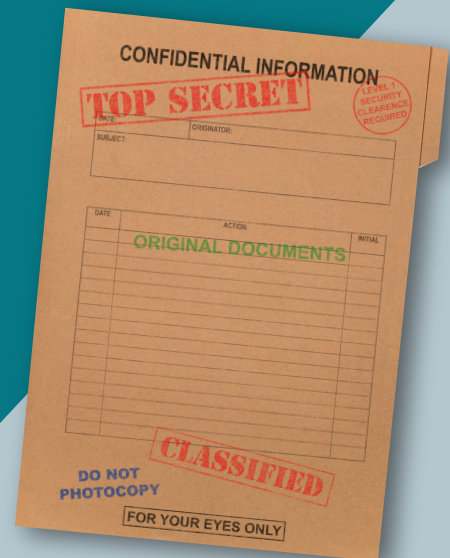
Find the **Freedom of the Press** section next.

As you explore, notice some of the **quotations featured on the walls**. Choose one and reflect on what the person was saying about a free press and why it's important.

Whose quote did you pick?

Summarize the quote in your own words:

Why do you think freedom of the press is important?



DAILY NEWS

EXPLORE THE HEADLINES!

A free press is important to keep the public aware of what's happening in our communities, in the nation, and around the world—but we have to do our part as citizens to stay informed! **Use the touchscreen to explore some news-making headlines today.**

The New York Times published top-secret documents that revealed the U.S. government's involvement in the Vietnam War. President Nixon tried to block the newspaper from publishing the report, but the Supreme Court ruled that *The New York Times* could publish them even if this move led to details that would embarrass the government.

ASSEMBLY

In the **Right of Assembly** area, watch the video to discover why people have gathered throughout American history! People were using their right to assemble to support causes they believed in.

Think about a cause you believe in, and **design your own protest sign to show your support.**



The **“Silent Sentinels”** were women activists who fought for their right to vote by gathering outside the White House and peacefully protesting in silence.

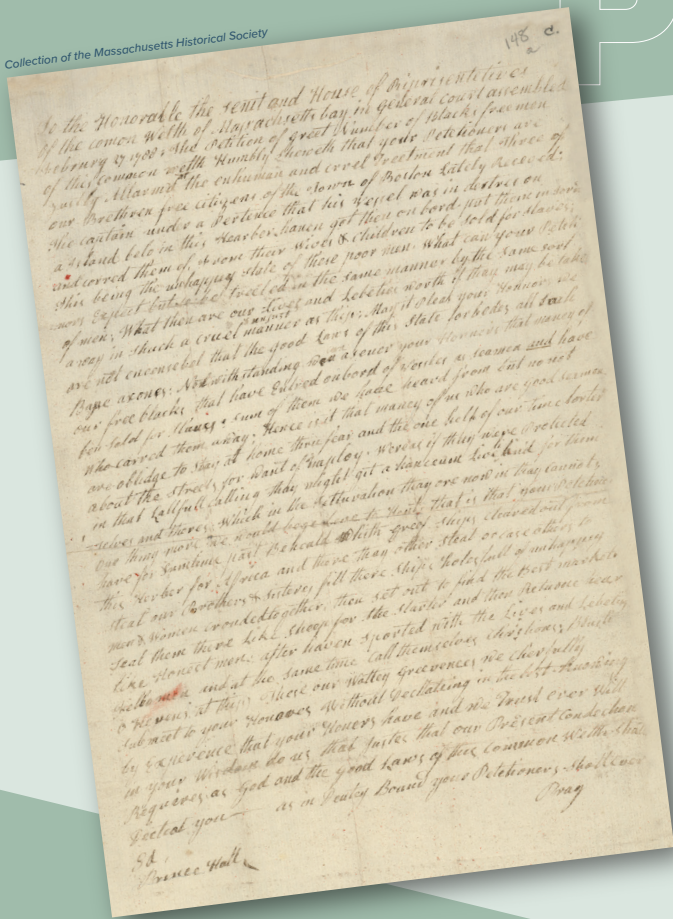
What other ways has the First Amendment been used to fight for important rights?

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, photograph by Harris & Ewing

PETITION

In the **Right to Petition** section, you can see images of petitions from different times in history, including one written by free black men living in Boston in the 18th Century. Take a look!

Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society



Led by **Prince Hall**, the group, who were protesting the kidnapping of three free Black men to be sold into slavery, presented a petition to the Massachusetts General Court in 1788.

What do you think makes petitions, like Hall's, so powerful, especially when someone is trying to persuade government officials to support their cause?

Now, identify another petition featured on the display.

Who wrote the petition?

What cause were they fighting for?





Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, photograph by Harris & Ewing

HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS?

Daniel Andrew Seeger, the Silent Sentinels, Prince Hall, and others all used their First Amendment rights as tools to fight for causes that they believed in. **How will you use your First Amendment rights?**

Think of a cause that is important to you. What is it?

How will you use one of the five First Amendment freedoms to fight for your cause?

