

First Amendment Rights

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 First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

I. Read - *Support For 1st Amendment Slipping.*

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/08/30/national/main520314.shtml>

II. Create a poll based on the issues discussed in the article and report.

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/PDF/sofa2002report.PDF>

Conduct the poll in class.

Chart the results.

Discuss the findings. Are your results consistent with what the report found?

Essay assignment:

Pennsylvanian, Benjamin Franklin, participated in writing the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Franklin said, "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

Based on the results in the article and your class poll, what would Benjamin Franklin say about the state government's recent actions?

What do you think?