

## **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

Read - *Support For 1st Amendment Slipping*. (These links work if you are online.)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/08/30/national/printable520314.shtml>

*First Amendment no big deal, students say*

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6888837/>

Create a poll for your class based on the issues discussed in the article and report.

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

Conduct the poll.

Chart the results and discuss the findings.

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? What do you think?