

Newspaper Theft Lesson Plan

Share the PowerPoint slide deck with students.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why is newspaper theft wrong? Give 3 reasons.

Why is Freedom of the Press important? How is Freedom of the Press related to free speech?

What does the Constitution have to say about these two rights?

Do you know of any important stories that have been revealed by newspapers? If not, do some research and find one to share with your classmates.

What laws are there against newspaper theft?

What protections do journalists have?

What appropriate ways are there of responding to views and opinions you dislike?

What are other ways that people try to silence views they dislike? How can Americans guard against these in order to protect their rights to free speech and freedom of the press?



SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS:

Have students read more about 1 or more of the following theft incidents and explain how they think the university should have responded. Students can also explain what schools can do to prevent such thefts from occurring in the future.

[Amid Radford cover-up, more stolen papers nationwide, newspaper theft appears on the rise](#)

[Student editor on Capital University cop stealing paper: It's like someone saying 'All your work is trash.'](#)

[Students steal peers' debut magazine that promoted intellectual discourse, praised WFB Jr.](#)

[FIRE, SPLC write Virginia Commonwealth student government amid allegations that members — including the president — stole newspapers](#)

[Thieves steal 500 copies of U. of South Carolina student newspaper](#)

More stories about newspaper thefts can be found [here](#).

Go to <https://splc.org/newspaper-theft-resources/> to accomplish the following:

Use the interactive map to identify a paper theft incident in your state, or in a nearby state.

Use the interactive map to identify the largest newspaper theft you can find.

Use the interactive map to identify the oldest newspaper theft you can find.

Use the interactive map to identify the most recent newspaper theft you can find.

