



INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

The purpose of this prepared curriculum is to provide teachers with a ready-made resource to instruct students in the principles of the First Amendment and—specifically—Freedom of Speech. It is designed to help students understand the origins and reasons for their First Amendment protections, current threats to them, and the reasons why these rights are worth defending. This curriculum is arranged in 5 lessons and each lesson centers on a PowerPoint presentation that is also available in lecture note form.

The lessons are:

- 1: Philosophy of Free Speech**
- 2: Speech, Power, and Censorship in American History**
- 3: The Law and Free Speech**

The lessons are designed to be used together sequentially or separately and individually. The PowerPoint files are fully editable, so you can add or remove slides, change the background, or incorporate other information according to your preferences. You will also find accompanying supplemental materials, including activities, handouts, standards & learning objectives, test questions, critical thinking and discussion questions, videos, and additional recommended resources.

1: Philosophy of Free Speech

This module covers the philosophical underpinnings that influenced our Founders and led to the writing of the First Amendment. Includes texts from John Milton, John Locke, Cato's Letters, and John Stuart Mill.

2: Speech, Power, and Censorship in American History

This module looks at some familiar historical topics through a free speech lens. Includes discussion of Abolition, Suffrage, and Civil Rights and includes a reading from Frederick Douglass and introduction to a few key First Amendment Supreme Court Decisions.

3: The Law and Free Speech

This module explains the legal exceptions to freedom of speech and the different speech limits between public and private schools and high school and college. It includes activities to practice identifying what speech is protected and what is unprotected.