



PRESS FREEDOM

Questions

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1. The First Amendment provides no protection from censorship by private school officials.
2. The First Amendment only protects the speech of individuals 18 years old and above.
3. State and local government officials (for example, a school board) can pass laws or policies that provide students with more free speech protection than that provided by the First Amendment.
4. Because they own the student newspaper, principals and other school officials have the same right to control the paper's editorial content as any other publisher.
5. Public high school officials do not have the right to ban distribution of underground or independent student newspapers on campus that contain no unlawful content (obscenity, libel, substantially disruptive, etc.).
6. The Supreme Court's 1988 decision in *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* requires school officials to censor material if they have a reasonable educational justification for doing so (or in the exact words of the Court, a reason that is "reasonably related to a legitimate pedagogical concern").
7. The First Amendment significantly limits the authority of public school officials to punish students who publish private, off-campus Web sites even if the sites harshly or unfairly criticize school district policies or administrators.
8. The *Hazelwood* standard — which allows school officials to censor student media if they have a reasonable educational justification for doing so — applies to all school-sponsored student media.
9. The Supreme Court's decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, which allows school officials to censor student expression that creates a

"material and substantial disruption" of school activities, prohibits discussion in student media of abortion, race, politics and other "heated" topics that may spark controversy on campus.

10. Religious topics can be discussed in student-edited media at a public school.

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