


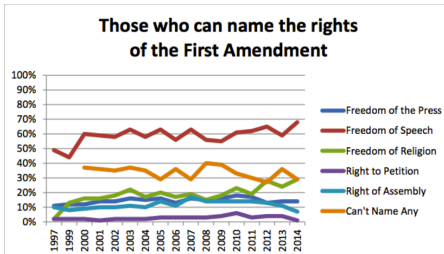
Convo Forum Template

This example comes from our First Amendment Convo.

Here's your chance to tell the world (or at least part of it) what you think about the First Amendment. In the chart, make a claim about the First Amendment, and then find a piece of evidence like a chart, image, or data; or an argument, logic, or reason that supports your claim. These first four entries are examples.

Name (Each student)	Claim (Same student)	Support (Same student)	Response (Done by other students)
Student 1	The First Amendment is the only thing keeping us from being a dictatorship.	The absolute and inviolable freedoms of speech and press hold our government to account. Throughout history, dictators have quickly acted to abridge these freedoms and have attacked institutions like the press. Rulings like <i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i> , <i>Schenck v. US</i> , & <i>NY Times v. US</i> , promote our vital freedom!	We have the first amendment and we have a dictatorship so that's not true. The will of the people is not protected by the First Amendment as long as the dictator (enabled by propaganda) can speak more loudly than the people. -Student 19
Student 2	The Framers would have hated to hear that prayer has been taken out of schools.	Disastrous rulings like <i>Engel v. Vitale</i> have taken the church out of our daily lives in ways the Framers would not have wanted. When the Framers wrote the Establishment Clause, they meant that the government could not chose <i>one</i> church over <i>another</i> but they DID NOT mean that the government could not pick <i>any</i> religion! The words of the Declaration read, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the	"Nothing is more dreaded than the national government meddling with religion." —John Adams, in a letter to Benjamin Rush. 1812 -Student 4

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		<p>pursuit of Happiness.” And end with, “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”</p> <div><p>“...henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, to be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service.”</p><p><i>Benjamin Franklin</i></p><p><small>Notes of the Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787, WW Norton & Company, N.Y. London (1967) p. 20</small></p></div>																																																									
Student 3	<p>If you don't know your rights you don't have them. Almost a third of Americans can't name a single First Amendment Right.</p>	<p>Those who can name the rights of the First Amendment</p>  <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Freedom of the Press</th><th>Freedom of Speech</th><th>Freedom of Religion</th><th>Right to Petition</th><th>Right of Assembly</th><th>Can't Name Any</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1997</td><td>10%</td><td>50%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>20%</td></tr><tr><td>2000</td><td>10%</td><td>60%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>2003</td><td>10%</td><td>60%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>2006</td><td>10%</td><td>60%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>10%</td><td>60%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>10%</td><td>60%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>10%</td><td>60%</td><td>10%</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td><td>15%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Freedom of the Press	Freedom of Speech	Freedom of Religion	Right to Petition	Right of Assembly	Can't Name Any	1997	10%	50%	10%	5%	5%	20%	2000	10%	60%	10%	5%	5%	15%	2003	10%	60%	10%	5%	5%	15%	2006	10%	60%	10%	5%	5%	15%	2009	10%	60%	10%	5%	5%	15%	2012	10%	60%	10%	5%	5%	15%	2014	10%	60%	10%	5%	5%	15%	<p>I disagree with this basic premise. I think that just because people cannot name their right on a quiz doesn't mean that they don't still have that right. What's important is that judges and justices can name this right and protect anyone whose rights are abridged. - Student 7</p>
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Student 4	<p>The First Amendment as interpreted by the Supreme Court today would be almost unrecognizable to the Framers.</p>	<p>Rulings like Tinker v. Des Moines go way too far in the rights they permit, and grant rights the framers did not intend. If you think about the writings of the Federalists, they did not even want a Bill of Rights, or a First Amendment, and they certainly did not want to weaken and limit the</p>	<p>That's okay and that's why the Framers built an independent judiciary and a process to amend the Constitution. The Framers' brilliance was that they knew ideas and values would evolve so they built in a system for the rules of the game to change with the</p>																																																								

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