



A Teacher-Directed Website

# C-SPAN CLASSROOM DELIBERATIONS



## Note-taking handout: FCC v Fox Supreme Court Case

*Can the government ban indecency on TV?*

### Background knowledge

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1. The federal government currently fines networks like ABC and FOX if they broadcast programs that include nudity or “indecent” language between 6am and 10pm. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states “*Congress shall make no law...abridging freedom of speech, or of the press.*” What do you think: Can the government ban indecency on TV without violating the First Amendment? Explain your answer.
  
2. How would you define “indecent”? Should the government play a role in protecting children from “indecent” television broadcasts?
  
3. Currently, the federal government only regulates indecency on broadcast television (which you can get with an antenna), but does not regulate cable and satellite television. Do you think cable and satellite television programs should be treated the same or differently as broadcast television programs when it comes to censorship? Why?