



Freedom means... disagreeing on what freedom means

The 2012 [State of the First Amendment national survey](#) reflects conflicting views on support for free expression and press freedom. Review and pick an activity:

Flashlight: What parts of the survey seem the most noteworthy? Are there important questions the survey did not ask? Why might Americans be so divided?

Spotlight: [“Education for Freedom”](#) is offered by the Freedom Forum’s First Amendment Center, a nonpartisan center dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of the values of the First Amendment. Do any of the lessons seem right for your class? Choose one.

Searchlight: University of Washington legal scholar Ronald K. L. Collins is a First Amendment Center fellow. In 2012, he was awarded a Scribes Book Award (bronze) for his work [We Must Not be Afraid to be Free](#) (written with educator Sam Chaltain, who pioneered First Amendment Schools). Ask students to review the book and write a short paper on the fears Collins says hold us back.

Bonus activity for high school teachers: Conduct an exercise that allows students to explore the meaning of the First Amendment with [SchoolJournalism.org](#) as a resource.