

Chapter 19

Section 3: Freedom of Speech and Press

Guiding Question: What are the limits on the guarantees of free speech and free press?

GET STARTED

Lesson Goals:

- ☐ Students will identify the limits on and protections of freedom of speech.
- ☐ Students will understand prior restraint.
- ☐ Students will identify the limits on and protections of freedom of the press.

Bellringer Write the following on the board, and have students answer in their notebooks:

“One man’s vulgarity is another’s lyric.”

—Supreme Court Justice John M. Harlan
(“Vulgarity” is something offensive.)

1. What did Harlan mean by this remark?

2. How does his comment capture the fundamental issue of freedom of speech?

Vocabulary Have students break into small groups and create crossword puzzles. Have groups exchange their puzzles and solve them.

TEACH

Discuss the Bellringer. Students should recognize that Justice Harlan’s point is that the definition of *vulgarity* varies depending on one’s opinion. Explain that in this section students will learn about the freedoms of speech and press guaranteed by the 1st Amendment. Read the section as a class one paragraph at a time, and have volunteers summarize each paragraph before moving on to the next.

Ask:

- What is sedition? (*Sedition is the effort of people or groups to overthrow or harm the government using violence. It is a crime.*)
- What does the Espionage Act make illegal? (*to encourage disloyalty in the military or to speak or print disloyal statements about the government*)
- What is prior restraint? (*Prior restraint is the placing of a ban on written or spoken words before they are expressed.*)

Learning Styles: Body/Kinesthetic

Organize students into small groups or pairs. Have them prepare for a talk show on the topic of freedom of the press, slander, and libel. Is it libel when a movie star, politician, or professional athlete is portrayed in a magazine or newspaper as having a substance-abuse problem or having extramarital affairs? Is it slander when a local citizen is publicly accused by another of taking bribes? Have groups present their talk shows to the class.

Other Strategies

Learning Styles: Interpersonal/Group Learning
ELL/ESL Strategy

ASSESS AND REMEDIATE

- Assign the Section Assessment questions; grade student responses.

Chapter Resources

Essential Questions Journal

Chapter 19 Outline (All-in-One, pp. 69–71)

Other Resources

Reading Comprehension Worksheet
(All-in-One, p. 91)

Extend Activity (All-in-One, p. 96)

Section Quiz B (All-in-One, p. 98)

Audio support is available for this section.

Additional features for Differentiated Instruction can be found throughout the Teacher’s Edition.