

"Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society" By:Jonah Richardson-Rojas

The first Amendment is the most important Amendment in the Constitution. It covers the five basic freedoms that any citizen of the United States have upon birth. Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of the Press, and the right to Petition. These were put first in the Bill of Rights to ensure that a tyrant government couldn't take away the people's rights as Great Britain had done to the colonists.

The reason the founding fathers thought that freedom of speech and press were important was so that the people couldn't be silenced by a person of power if they were speaking negatively of them. The colonists words were silenced because if any person were to speak out against Britain then they would be locked up and never see their family again or could be executed for treason. The founding fathers wanted to make sure that no-one rose up to power and made the country into a Dictatorship with the people being silenced and killed for daring to speak against the ruler.

There aren't any limits on what you can say and I don't believe there should be, but that doesn't mean that you can say what you want wherever you want and not have consequences. For example, if you are yelling obscenities at a person of authority and you get punished, you can't just say "Free Speech I can say what I want!". You will be told that there are limits and that there are three things to think of when you say something, context, location, and audience. The context in which you say things can have a big effect on how someone will take that statement whether you were joking or being serious. Your location is also a big factor because something that is appropriate in one setting might not go over so well in another, and finally audience, who you make a statement to can affect their reaction and how they take your statement.

If the constitution did not include these rights then life in America could be very, very different. Social media posts could be removed because of an unpopular belief, newspapers could be edited to say positive things about a certain person or group. Anyone who spoke out about the problems in our country they could be silenced and everything to the outside world would appear to be going great in America when in reality, mass starvation or civil war could be unfolding in America. Freedom of the Press protects the news from being altered and then distributing false news that makes things look better for a person or place. Freedom of Speech applies to everyone and it ensures that we can say what we want and not be **unfairly** punished for speaking against a powerful person, group, or popular opinion.

These basic rights serve as the basis for America today as it makes news channels spread what they want how they want even if it is false. Groups that have heavy influence can spread negativity but if they were to be shut down, how long until even good people are silenced. This is proof that Freedom of Speech and Press truly apply to everyone as even unfavorable or negative opinions and beliefs, can be spread around without repercussion. These are the most important rights that give the people power to say what they want and keep others informed as to what is happening in America.