

The Future of the First Amendment III

**A study commissioned by the
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

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September 2007

KNIGHT FOFA – HIGH SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY – 2007

1. Which of the following sources do you consider your main source of news?

2007

Newspapers in print form	46%
Newspapers on online	11%
Radio news broadcasts	24%
Television news broadcasts	62%
Television on-line websites	4%
Internet service provider websites such as Google or Yahoo News	17%
Blogs	1%
Entertainment programs featuring current events	5%

2. How often, if at all, do you get news and information from online or Internet sources in general?

2007

Everyday	33%
Several times a week	23%
About once a week	15%
Less than once a week	16%
Never	13%

3. Short for “web logs,” “blogs” are defined as online journals in which people post diary entries about their personal experiences and opinions, to be read online by others. How often, if at all, do you get news and information from blogs?

2007

Everyday	2%
Several times a week	3%
About once a week	3%
Less than once a week	14%
Never	77%

4. How often, if at all, do you get news and information from mobile devices such as a cell phone or a BlackBerry?

2007

Everyday	5%
Several times a week	2%
About once a week	2%
Less than once a week	5%
Never	86%

5. How often, if at all, do you watch videos on websites such as “Youtube” or “Google video”?

2007

Everyday	1%
Several times a week	5%
About once a week	8%
Less than once a week	26%
Never	61%

6. Now thinking about what you do online... How often, if at all, do you ... use the Internet, the World Wide Web or an online service to send or receive e-mails to select individuals or groups of individuals?

2007

Everyday	64%
Several times a week	15%
About once a week	8%
Less than once a week	7%
Never	6%

7. Now thinking about what you do online... How often, if at all, do you ... use the Internet, the World Wide Web or an online service to participate in online discussions or chat groups?

2007

Everyday	4%
Several times a week	3%
About once a week	4%

Less than once a week	12%
Never	78%

8. Now thinking about what you do online... How often, if at all, do you ... use the Internet, the World Wide Web or an online service to post messages or opinions to online columns or blogs that may be read by the general public?

2007

Everyday	1%
Several times a week	3%
About once a week	1%
Less than once a week	13%
Never	82%

9. The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 200 years ago. This is what it says:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Based on your own feelings about the First Amendment, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: *The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.*

2007

Strongly agree	6%
Mildly agree	21%
Mildly disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	47%
Don't know	6%

10. Overall, do you think the *press in America* has too much freedom to do what it wants, too little freedom to do what it wants, or is the amount of freedom the press has about right?

2007

Too much freedom	40%
Too little freedom	8%
About right	46%
Don't know	6%

11. People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions.

2007

Strongly agree	62%
Mildly agree	31%
Mildly disagree	4%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	2%

12. People should be allowed to burn or deface the American flag as a political statement.

2007

Strongly agree	10%
Mildly agree	8%
Mildly disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	70%
Don't know	2%

13. Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.

2007

Strongly agree	22%
Mildly agree	34%
Mildly disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	21%
Don't know	3%

14. Newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of a story.

2007

Strongly agree	56%
Mildly agree	26%
Mildly disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	2%

15. High school students should be allowed to report controversial issues in their student newspapers without the approval of school authorities.

2007

Strongly agree	20%
Mildly agree	27%
Mildly disagree	28%
Strongly disagree	24%
Don't know	0%

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
"Americans don't appreciate First Amendment freedoms the way they ought to."

2007

Strongly agree	29%
Mildly agree	41%
Mildly disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	9%

- 16a. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: To be an American means, at least in part, to accept the responsibility to guard the rights of others, even those with whom we deeply disagree"

2007

Strongly agree	52%
Mildly agree	39%
Mildly disagree	7%
Strongly disagree	2%

17. Are the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment something you personally think about or are they something you take for granted?

2007

Personally think about	48%
Take for granted	44%
Don't know	7%

18. How much, if at all, does the following statement apply to your school: “My school has made specific efforts to promote the First Amendment principles through school activities, conversations and/or policies.”

2007

A Lot	11%
Some	51%
Only a little	25%
Not at all	12%

20. How important do you feel it is that ALL students be taught as part of the curriculum how to distinguish news from entertainment or other types of items that may be disseminated to the public?

2007

Very important	74%
Somewhat important	22%
Not too important	2%
Not important at all	1%
Don't know	1%

21. Below is a list of some stories that have appeared in the news recently. Please indicate, with the corresponding number in the space provided, whether you think the story is:

- a. Britney Spears shaving her head:

2007

Extremely important	0%
Very important	0%
Somewhat important	3%
Not that important	97%

- b. A presidential candidate giving a speech on tax policy:

2007

Extremely important	27%
Very important	42%
Somewhat important	30%
Not that important	1%

- c. The latest bombing in Iraq that killed U.S. military personnel:

2007

Extremely important	53%
Very important	36%
Somewhat important	10%
Not that important	1%

- d. Recent declines in the Dow Jones Industrial stock average:

2007

Extremely important	13%
Very important	42%
Somewhat important	39%
Not that important	5%

- e. Highlights of the latest round of the NBA basketball playoffs:

2007

Extremely important	2%
Very important	5%
Somewhat important	32%
Not that important	61%

22. Now I'd like you to go back through the list of stories. Please indicate, with the corresponding number in the space provided, how interested you are in each story:

- a. Britney Spears shaving her head:

2007

Extremely interested	1%
Very interested	1%
Somewhat interested	8%
Not that interested	91%

- b. A presidential candidate giving a speech on tax policy:

2007

Extremely interested	18%
Very interested	25%
Somewhat interested	42%
Not that interested	15%

- c. The latest bombing in Iraq that killed U.S. military personnel:

2007

Extremely interested	41%
Very interested	33%
Somewhat interested	23%
Not that interested	3%

- d. Recent declines in the Dow Jones Industrial stock average:

2007

Extremely interested	12%
Very interested	31%
Somewhat interested	37%
Not that interested	20%

- e. Highlights of the latest round of the NBA basketball playoffs:

2007

Extremely interested	3%
Very interested	7%
Somewhat interested	21%
Not that interested	69%

23. Please agree or disagree with the following statement: "In general, parents are currently taking enough steps to limit inappropriate uses of the Internet by their own children"

2007

Strongly agree	7%
Mildly agree	22%
Mildly disagree	29%
Strongly disagree	41%

24. Have you placed any restrictions on your child's use of the Internet?

2007

Yes	79%
No	21%