



PBS TeachersSM

Focus on Intellectual FREEDOM

PBS Teachers Staff
<www.pbs.org/teachers>

The following PBS resources enable teachers and students to explore the concept of intellectual freedom and the related topics of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. They offer insights into how these rights are exercised and protected in the United States as well as abroad. Additionally, several of the resources focus on the judiciary and the laws that have been created to protect these critical freedoms.

PBS Teachers is PBS's national Web destination for high-quality PreK–12 educational resources, including free, standards-based, media-rich lesson plans, interactive features, and video segments. PBS Teachers also support educators with online professional development, blogs, library media resources, and aids for integrating technology in the classroom.

Arthur: The Scare-Your-Pants-Off Club

<http://pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/lesson/medialiteracy/index.html>

Resource type: lesson plan

Grade range: K–3

In this lesson, part of Arthur’s Guide to Media Literacy, students explore techniques used in creating messages to support each side of a controversy and discuss censorship while learning about book banning and the right to free speech. They then create posters supporting one side of an argument.

American Experience

www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/teachers/index.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

The teachers area of the site allows users to search for companion Web sites that offer extensive background information, including primary sources, interactive features, and classroom activities. The following films from the award-winning series profile key figures and events in American history related to freedom of speech and the press.

- Emma Goldman
- Fidel Castro
- The Presidents
- Monkey Trail
- Citizen King
- Reconstruction: The Second Civil War
- Eyes on the Prize
- Marcus Garvey
- Lindbergh

American Masters:

Edward R. Murrow

www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/education/lesson39_overview.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

This film follows the life and career of Edward R. Murrow; it examines Murrow’s courage and perseverance in the search for truth and unparalleled influence on broadcast journalism. The accompanying lesson plan engages students in analyzing Murrow’s thoughts on the responsibility of the media and examining modern issues of media rights and responsibilities.

Culture Shock

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock>

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

This series and site provide in-depth explorations of the impact of the arts on society, freedom of expression, cultural values, and censorship. The site includes two teacher guides, a general one and a guide related to “Born to Trouble: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.” Note: Because the series explores controversies in art, past and present, teachers should preview the films and Web site before sharing them with students.

The Democracy Project: How Does Government Affect Me?

<http://pbskids.org/democracy/mygovt/index.html>

Resource type: interactive/online activity

Grade range: 3–8

This interactive activity enables students to explore the structure and functions of the national government, including the judiciary, and the various ways in which local government affects their daily lives.

Freedom: A History of US

www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/index.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 6–12

This sixteen-part series, based on the award-winning books by master storyteller Joy Hakim, examines how the ideal of freedom has shaped our nation. The Web site features hundreds of primary sources, hyperlinked articles, timelines, glossaries, interactive games and quizzes, and episode-specific teaching guides.

FRONTLINE: News War

www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/newswar/index.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

This four-part investigation examines the political, cultural, legal, and economic forces challenging the news media today and how the press has reacted in turn. The site includes viewing and discussion questions, a featured lesson plan, background readings, and additional lesson ideas.

FRONTLINE/World: Freedom of the Press around the World

www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/educators/politics_press.html

Resource type: lesson plan

Grade range: 7–12

In this lesson, students conduct research to determine which countries uphold freedom of the press. Students also compare press freedom in the United States and other countries, considering political influence, censorship, and governmental pressures.

NewsHour Extra:

Citizen Journalism

www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/media/citizen_journalism.html

Resource type: lesson plan

Grade range: 9–12

Educators can use this lesson plan to examine the rights and

responsibilities of those who participate in citizen journalism. It is designed to connect teenagers' knowledge of their First Amendment rights to the recent increase in their use of the Internet for communication.

NewsHour Extra: On

Trial: Anonymous Sources, Confidentiality, and Privacy

www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/media/cia_leak.html

Resource type: lesson plan

Grade range: 9–12

In this lesson, students investigate the issues involved with reporting leaked information, including promising confidentiality to sources and the public's right to know. They then conduct a mock trial involving these journalistic and confidentiality issues.

NewsHour Extra: Reel Politics: How Hollywood Exercises Its Freedom of Speech

www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/art/academy_awards.html

Resource type: lesson plan

Grade range: 9–12

In this lesson, students explore how film can be used as a political tool and a vehicle for informing the public and promoting political agendas. They also research critically acclaimed political films throughout history and create a two-page spread for a book about political films.

NOW: Foreign War and Domestic Freedom: A Delicate Balancing Act

www.pbs.org/now/classroom/civilliberties.html

Resource type: lesson plan

Grade range: 9–12

In this lesson, students review the

concept of civil liberties and look at examples in American history in which rights were restricted. They then investigate key arguments between those who seek to restrict liberties and those who do not, and formulate their own viewpoint on the debate.

PBS Teachers: Thematic Teaching: Constitutional Controversies

www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/constitution/indexI.html

Resource type: offline activities and projects

Grade range: 6–12

With this collection of interdisciplinary activities, students analyze the United States Constitution and discuss issues related to freedom of the press, separation of church and state, checks and balances, and cruel and unusual punishment.

PBS Teachers: Thematic Teaching: Covering the News Media

www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/newsmedia/indexI.html

Resource type: offline activities/projects

Grade range: 3–12

These interdisciplinary activities help students understand the First Amendment and different types of news media. Students compare newspapers around the country, identify stereotypes in the news, track the development of a news story, and discuss what makes an event newsworthy.

P.O.V.: The Fire Next Time

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/thefirenexttime/index.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

This documentary follows a deeply divided group of Montana

citizens caught in a web of conflicts intensified by rapid growth and the power of talk radio. The accompanying lesson plan is designed to help students understand the difference between protected and prohibited speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment, appreciate why free speech is essential to a democracy, and develop solutions for dealing with speech they find offensive.

P.O.V.: War Feels Like War

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/warfeelslikewar/index.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

This film documents the lives of reporters and photographers who circumvented military media control to get access to the real Iraq War. The accompanying lesson plan fosters information literacy skills and helps students consider the importance of information and press freedom to citizenship.

Reporting America at War

www.pbs.org/weta/reportingamericaatwar/index.html

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–16

This two-part series explores the role of American journalists in the pivotal conflicts of the twentieth century and beyond. The education section of the Web site provides high school social studies, media education, and language arts teachers, as well as college journalism and communication educators, with extensive lesson plans, resource materials, and discussion questions to introduce students to the world of war correspondence. Topics include censorship and message control.

The Supreme Court

www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 9–12

This four-part series explores the history, influence, and drama of America's highest court. The Web site includes streaming video clips, extensive background information about key players and decisions in the Court's history, primary sources, lesson plans, educational interactives, and a discussion guide.

Thomas Jefferson

www.pbs.org/jefferson

Resource type: video and Web site

Grade range: 6–12

This Ken Burns film chronicles the life and career of one of America's most remarkable yet controversial presidents. The related classroom activities invite students to examine Jefferson's thoughts regarding five basic freedoms and explore landmark Supreme Court cases that further define Constitutional principles of freedom.

WayBack: U.S. History for Kids: Stand Up for Your Rights

<http://pbskids.org/wayback/civilrights/index.html>

Resource type: Web site

Grade range: 3–8

This site, from the producers of American Experience, is designed to help elementary teachers and students examine civil rights issues. The educational activities on the site explore women's right to vote, religious freedom, and school segregation through the memories and writings of the people who experienced discrimination.