



Academic Vocabulary

express

ex•press (verb)

paragraph 5

Meaning

to say or _____
what you think or feel

Example

What do you do to **express** your creativity?

I _____ my

creativity by _____

violation

vi•o•la•tion (noun)

paragraph 6

Meaning

an action that _____
a rule, law, or agreement

Example

What is one example of a **violation** of your school's rules?

One example of a _____

of our school's rules is _____



★ THE FIRST AMENDMENT ★

1 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.

2 For those of us on the outside, the US Supreme Court can seem remote and mysterious. Its nine Justices are appointed for life and deliberate in secret. But the Court holds a powerful influence over the course of the nation and over the lives of Americans—including teenagers.

3 In a landmark 1967 case which concerned the arrest of a 15-year-old boy, the Court ruled that teenagers have rights under the US Constitution. In the decades since, the Court has weighed in on a host of issues involving people under 18.

exercise the use of a power or right that you have

abridging making the strength or effect of something smaller



TINKER v. DES MOINES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (1969)

- 4 **ISSUE:** Freedom of Speech at School
- 5 **BOTTOM LINE:** You Have the Right to **Express** Yourself—Up to a Point
- 6 **BACKGROUND:** In December 1965, John and Mary Beth Tinker and their friend Chris Eckhardt wore black armbands to school in Des Moines, Iowa, to protest the war in Vietnam. School officials told them to remove the armbands. When they refused, they were suspended. With their parents, they sued the school district, claiming a **violation** of their First Amendment right of freedom of speech.
- 7 **RULING:** The Supreme Court sided with the students. Students and teachers don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate," the Court said. ▶

In 1965, Mary Beth and John Tinker wore these armbands to school to protest the war in Vietnam.



Close Reading

Key Idea

Why were John and Mary Beth Tinker suspended from school?

John and Mary Beth Tinker were suspended from school because they _____

Identify Central Idea and Details

Underline a detail that tells why the students wore armbands. Why did they believe that their freedom of speech was violated when they were suspended?

The students believed their freedom of speech was violated because they _____

React and Write

Do you think students should or should not have freedom of speech in school? Explain.

I think students (should/should not have freedom of speech in school because _____

Language to Discuss

(Name) and I both agree that _____.

(Name) and I disagree about _____ because _____.



Academic Vocabulary

disruption

dis•rup•tion (noun)

paragraph 9

Meaning

something that _____ an action or event from continuing

Example

What is one situation that can cause a **disruption** during the school day?

One situation that can cause a _____ during the school day is (a/an) _____

impose

im•pose (verb)

paragraph 14

Meaning

to _____ someone to accept a rule

Example

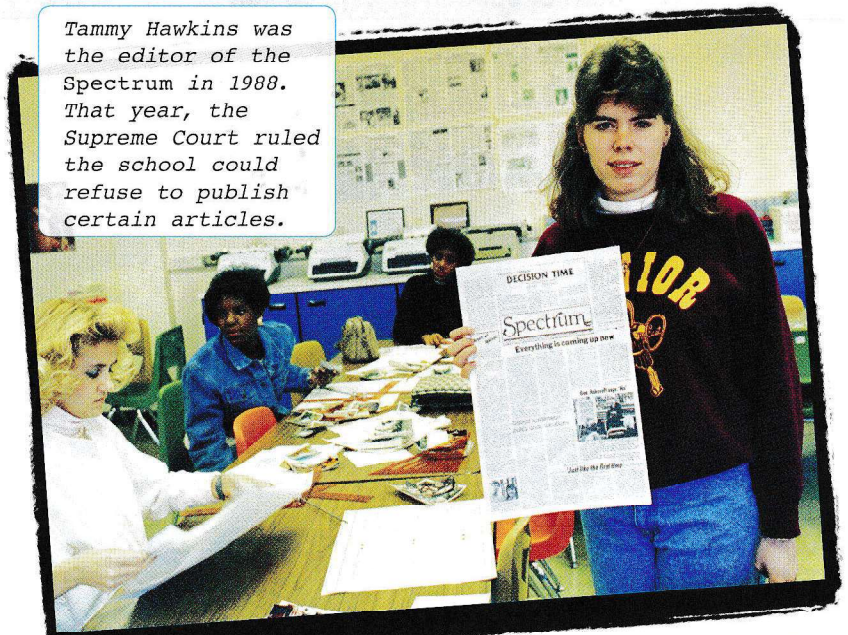
What has your school **imposed** a ban on?

My school has _____ a ban on _____

8 The Court did not, however, grant students an unlimited right to self-expression. It said First Amendment guarantees must be balanced against a school's need to keep order. As long as an act of expression doesn't disrupt classwork or school activities or invade the rights of others, it's acceptable. Regarding the students in this case, "their deviation consisted only in wearing on their sleeve a band of black cloth," the Court said. "They caused discussion outside of the classrooms, but no interference with work and no disorder."

9 **IMPACT:** In 1986, applying the "**disruption** test" from the Tinker case, the Supreme Court upheld the suspension of Matthew Fraser, a 17-year-old senior in Tacoma, Washington. He gave a school speech containing sexual innuendos (Bethel School District v. Fraser). The Court said "it is a highly appropriate function of public school education to prohibit the use of vulgar and offensive terms in public discourse."

Tammy Hawkins was the editor of the Spectrum in 1988. That year, the Supreme Court ruled the school could refuse to publish certain articles.



deviation a noticeable difference from what is expected
innuendos statements which suggest something offensive without saying it directly



HAZELWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT v. KUHLMEIER (1988)

- 10 **ISSUE:** Student Journalism and the First Amendment
- 11 **BOTTOM LINE:** Schools Can **Censor** Student Newspapers
- 12 **BACKGROUND:** Cathy Kuhlmeier, Leslie Smart, and Leanne Tippett, juniors at Hazelwood East High School in St. Louis, Missouri, helped write and edit the school paper, the *Spectrum*, as part of a journalism class. An issue of the paper was to include articles about the impact of divorce on students and teen pregnancy. The school's principal refused to publish the two stories, saying they were too sensitive for younger students and contained too many personal details. The girls went to court, claiming their First Amendment right to freedom of expression had been violated.
- 13 **RULING:** The Supreme Court ruled against the girls. A school newspaper isn't a public forum in which anyone can voice an opinion, the Court said. Rather, it is a supervised learning experience for students interested in journalism. "Educators do not offend the First Amendment by exercising editorial control over the style and content of student speech in school-sponsored expressive activities," the Court said, "so long as their actions are reasonably related to legitimate [educational] concerns."
- 14 **IMPACT:** Schools may censor newspapers and restrict other forms of student expression. This includes theatrical productions, yearbooks, creative writing assignments, and campaign and graduation speeches. But the Court's ruling in Hazelwood encourages schools to look closely at a student activity before **imposing** any restrictions. ■

Close Reading

Key Idea

What did the ruling of *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* determine?

The ruling determined that

Read Critically

How does the Court's ruling affect student newspapers moving forward? Underline details that support your response.

The Court's ruling affects student newspapers because it _____

Stretch

Why should every teen know about these Supreme Court cases?

Every teen should know about these cases because _____