

**Since 1997, the First Amendment Center has conducted an annual survey on the state of the First Amendment. One thousand Americans are randomly contacted by telephone and asked if they can name their First Amendment rights. They are then read the text of the amendment and asked questions that probe their feelings about the rights it protects. Take the “State of the First Amendment” survey for yourself. Record your answers on the tally sheet below. Then read the questions to 5 friends (not in Mrs. Enos’ Gov’t classes) or family members and record their answers. Then compare your views and the views of your friends/family with those who participated in the 2012 survey.**

2012 State of the First Amendment Survey

#?	Question	Religion	Speech	Press	Assembly	Petition
1	As you may know, the First Amendment is a part of the U.S. Constitution. Can you name any of the specific rights that are guaranteed by the First Amendment?					
		Agree	Disagree			
2	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.					
3	Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.					
4	Overall, the news media try to report the news without bias.					
5	. It is important for our democracy that the news media act as a watchdog on government.					
6	Public schools should be allowed to discipline students who use their own personal computers at home to post material that school officials say is offensive.					
		Strongly Agree	Mildly Agree	Mildly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
7	In the event of a national emergency, the government should be allowed to take control of the Internet and limit access to social media and to Web outlets.					
8	The government should be allowed to prosecute Internet users who illegally distribute copyrighted music and movies online.					
9	People should be allowed to record or photograph the activities of the police in public as long as they do not interfere with what the police are doing.					
10	As long as no money is being made, someone should be able to post copyrighted material online or on social media without paying rights fees.					
11	Even if the money is being made, someone should be able to post copyrighted material online or on social media without paying rights fees.					