

First Amendment & Limits

Media Law & Ethics

TODAY

We will learn about the
**First Amendment, its
history and its
protections and
limitations.**

I will analyze a situation and
**determine if a situation
would be in violation of
the First Amendment.**

ON YOUR OWN

Read this situation:

**Who is correct —
the police officer or
the student? Why
do you believe so?**

A student is walking in a public park carrying a sign that says, “All Cops Should Die”.

A police officer says the student needs to put the sign away because they are threatening police officers. The student says they are not threatening police, but making a political statement and has First Amendment rights to free speech. The cop arrests the student for threatening a public official.

ON YOUR OWN

Read this situation:

Who is correct — the police officer or the student? Why do you believe so?

The student is probably right. While many do not agree that cops deserve death, the student is simply holding a sign with a vague statement about what action would cause the deaths. A court would likely find their First Amendment rights were violated, especially because it was a political statement and at a public park.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED

1. *The First Amendment has **five protections: religion, peaceful assembly, petition, press, and speech.***
2. *It was included as a **response to British royalty preventing criticism.***
3. *First Amendment protection **extends only to government action, not** protection from private citizens and businesses who dislike your speech.*
4. *Speech **can be limited in its time, place and manner in limited ways; all Constitutional protections have limits.***

ON YOUR OWN

Read this situation:

Who is correct — the police officer or the student? Why do you believe so?

A group of students want to protest a recent policy passed by the city council creating a curfew for teenagers. The students form a silent protest in front of the mayor's office with signs saying, "MAYOR LEE DURR HATES TEENS." A police officer tells the students they can protest on the corner 50 feet away, but not in front of the mayor's office because "it isn't fair to him because he can't protest against them."

The group refuses and are escorted to jail.