



# Educator Guide

## 2009 Seen & Heard National Student Expression Contest and Exhibits

### Seen & Heard Contest

The McCormick Freedom Museum celebrates youth voices through the *Seen & Heard National Student Expression Contest* by rewarding twelve talented high school students for their depictions of contemporary freedom issues. Using four media outlets - editorial cartoons, film, photojournalism and digital design - students exercise First Amendment freedoms to express their perspectives on contemporary social, political or economic issues.

### Seen & Heard Exhibits

Winning and notable entries from the 2009 *Seen & Heard* contest will be on exhibit at the [Newberry Library](http://Newberry Library) in downtown Chicago from April 11 through May 31, 2009. Student work will also be featured in an online exhibit throughout the year at [FreedomMuseum.US/Exhibits/SeenAndHeard](http://FreedomMuseum.US/Exhibits/SeenAndHeard). This educator guide can be used to supplement a visit to either the online or Newberry library exhibit.

### Questions for Discussion

- Freedom of speech is one of five freedoms protected by the First Amendment. What forms of artistic and political expression does it protect? What limits does it establish?
- How does freedom of speech impact the work of artists?
- If you could write an essay or create a work of art to influence someone's opinion on an issue, which would you choose? Is one form of expression more powerful than the other? If so, which one and why?
- Should there be limits on what artists can include in their work or where it can be shown? Why or why not?
- Should someone be punished for creating or publishing a political cartoon that criticizes the government? Why or why not?

### Related Lesson Plans

[Free to Speak lesson plan](#) from the [Faces of Freedom curriculum guide](#) (8.0 reading level)

Through this lesson, students will explore the concept of symbolic speech and the extent to which it is protected by the First Amendment. Students will also analyze related Supreme Court cases, *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969) and *Texas v. Johnson* (1989), in order to better understand First Amendment rights and responsibilities in school and the community.

[A Burning Issue: A Structured Academic Controversy Concerning Flag Desecration](#)

Should the First Amendment protect an artist's right to desecrate the American flag in the name of artistic expression or political protest? Explore this question with your students through an analysis of four primary sources and a structured academic controversy. Send an email to [Education@FreedomMuseum.US](mailto:Education@FreedomMuseum.US) to request a print copy.

### Recommended Extension

Broaden the discussion around student entries in the editorial cartoon, photojournalism and film categories by utilizing document analysis worksheets from the [National Archives](#):

[Cartoon Analysis Worksheet](#)

[Photo Analysis Worksheet](#)

[Motion Picture Analysis Worksheet](#)