

High School Faculty Survey

(7,889 faculty members)

1. For how many years have you been teaching at this high school?

44% Less than 5 years
19 6–10 years
10 11–15 years
27 More than 15 years

2. For how many total years have you been teaching at the high school level? (Include all high schools taught at.)

28% Less than 5 years
20 6–10 years
13 11–15 years
39 More than 15 years

3. What grade level do you currently teach primarily? (Please check only one.)

6% Below 9th
36 9th
25 10th
21 11th
13 12th

4. Do you teach one subject primarily or a variety of subjects?

54% One subject
46 Variety

5. What subject or subjects do you currently teach? (Please check all responses that apply.)

(Responses add up to more than 100% due to multiple mentions. Total number of responses = 10748)

8% Art/Music/Drama
21 English
8 Foreign Language (e.g. Spanish, French)
11 History
2 Journalism
17 Math (Algebra/Calculus/Geometry)
6 Physical Education
14 Physical sciences (e.g. Biology/Chemistry, Physics)
2 Psychology
12 Social Studies
9 Special Education
26 Other

6. During the past year, have you taught any classes that dealt primarily with journalism skills?

7% Yes
93 No

7. During the past year, have you taught any classes that deal with the First Amendment?

24% Yes
76 No

8. During the past year, have you taught any classes that discuss the role of media in society?

42% Yes
58 No

9. During the past year, have you required as an assignment that your students read a newspaper or watch the television news, and if so, how often were they required to do so?

44% Never (GO TO QUESTION 11)
12 Once per year
17 On a quarterly basis
12 On a monthly basis
14 On a weekly basis

10. If you did require that students read a newspaper or watch the television news, which (if any) of the following activities did you require as part of that class assignment? (Check all that apply.)

(Responses add up to more than 100% due to multiple mentions. Total number of responses = 5906)

48% Students wrote reports
8 Students wrote a letter to the editor/station manager
39 Students gave oral presentations to the class
9 No activities required
34 Other

11. Do you currently serve as a faculty adviser or coach for any extra curricular clubs or activities?

56% Yes
44 No (GO TO QUESTION 18)

12–17. If YES, do you currently serve as faculty adviser to any of the following clubs or activities? (Please circle Yes or No.)

4%	Yes	96%	No	Student newspaper
1	Yes	99	No	Student magazine (Category does <i>not</i> include student literary magazines or yearbooks)
0	Yes	100	No	Student-run radio station with a news component
1	Yes	99	No	Student-run television station with a news component
2	Yes	98	No	Student Internet or World-Wide Web publication with a news component
5	Yes	95	No	Any other form of student media with a news component

18–22. People tend to get their news and information from many different sources. How often, if at all, do you get news from each of the following sources?

From the newspaper?

55%	Every day
23	Several times a week
13	About once a week
7	Less than once a week
2	Never
0	Don't know

From the radio?

72%	Every day
17	Several times a week
4	About once a week
4	Less than once a week
2	Never
1	Don't know

From local television newscasts?

63%	Every day
22	Several times a week
6	About once a week
6	Less than once a week
3	Never
0	Don't know

From national television newscasts?

49%	Every day
28	Several times a week
11	About once a week
9	Less than once a week
3	Never
1	Don't know

From the Internet?

32%	Every day
24	Several times a week
12	About once a week
18	Less than once a week
13	Never
1	Don't know

23. Do you read any weekly news magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek* or *U.S. News & World Report*?

47%	Yes
52	No
1	Don't know

24. How important do you feel it is that ALL students participate in some extracurricular activities or clubs?

73%	Very important
24	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
1	Not important at all
0	Don't know

25. How important do you feel it is that ALL students learn some journalism skills?

35%	Very important
52	Somewhat important
10	Not too important
1	Not important at all
1	Don't know

26. Do you feel that your school's administration is very supportive, somewhat supportive, not too supportive, or not supportive at all of students participating in extracurricular activities or clubs?

- 70% Very supportive
- 24 Somewhat supportive
- 3 Not too supportive
- 1 Not at all supportive
- 2 Don't know

27. Do you feel that your school's administration is very supportive, somewhat supportive, not too supportive, or not supportive at all of the teaching and learning of journalism skills?

- 33% Very supportive
- 37 Somewhat supportive
- 8 Not too supportive
- 1 Not at all supportive
- 21 Don't know

28. How often, if at all, do you encourage students in your classes to think about pursuing a career in journalism?

- 2% All of the time
- 18 Some of the time
- 34 Little of the time
- 42 Not at all
- 5 Don't know

29. How much do you trust journalists to tell the truth? Do you believe they tell the truth...

- 4% All of the time
- 79 Some of the time
- 13 Little of the time
- 2 Not at all
- 2 Don't know

30. 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.

- 9% Strongly agree
- 20 Mildly agree
- 16 Mildly disagree
- 50 Strongly disagree
- 5 Don't know

31. Overall, how would you rate the job that the American educational system does in teaching students about First Amendment freedoms?

- 7% Excellent
- 46 Good
- 29 Fair
- 7 Poor
- 11 Don't know

32. Overall, do you think the press in America has too much freedom to do what it wants, too little freedom to do what it wants, or is the amount of freedom the press has about right?

- 38% Too much freedom
- 8 Too little freedom
- 49 About right
- 6 Don't know

For each of the following statements, please circle if you agree or disagree that someone should be allowed to do it. . .

33. People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions.

- 72% Strongly agree
- 25 Mildly agree
- 2 Mildly disagree
- 1 Strongly disagree
- 1 Don't know

34. People should be allowed to burn or deface the American flag as a political statement.

- 15% Strongly agree
- 13 Mildly agree
- 11 Mildly disagree
- 59 Strongly disagree
- 2 Don't know

35. Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.

- 28% Strongly agree
- 30 Mildly agree
- 19 Mildly disagree
- 21 Strongly disagree
- 2 Don't know

36. Newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of a story.

- 53% Strongly agree
- 27 Mildly agree
- 12 Mildly disagree
- 6 Strongly disagree
- 2 Don't know

37. High school students should be allowed to report controversial issues in their student newspapers without the approval of school authorities.

- 13% Strongly agree
- 26 Mildly agree
- 27 Mildly disagree
- 33 Strongly disagree
- 1 Don't know

38. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"Americans don't appreciate First Amendment freedoms the way they ought to."

- 30% Strongly agree
- 43 Mildly agree
- 14 Mildly disagree
- 5 Strongly disagree
- 7 Don't know

39. Are the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment something you personally think about or are they something you take for granted?

- 50% Personally think about
- 46 Take for granted
- 4 Don't know

40. What about most people in the United States—do you think the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment are something people specifically think about or are they something they take for granted?

- 7% Personally think about
- 86 Take for granted
- 7 Don't know

Below are a series of statements about how people might try to exercise their rights under the First Amendment. In each case please indicate whether you think under current law Americans have the legal right or not to do these things:

41. Under current law, do Americans have the legal right to burn the American flag as a means of political protest? (Please circle Yes or No.)

- 60% Yes
- 40 No

42. Under current law, do the courts have the right to send reporters to jail for refusing to reveal a news source? (Please circle Yes or No.) (Correct answer depends on state.)

- 54% Yes
- 46 No

43. Under current law, does the government have the right to restrict indecent material on the Internet? (Please circle Yes or No.)

- 50% Yes
- 50 No

44. Under current law, does someone have the legal right to shout “fire” in a crowded arena as a prank? (Please circle Yes or No.)

8% Yes
92 No

Finally, please answer the following questions for classification purposes only...

45. What is the highest level of education that you have attained?

1% High School diploma
41 Bachelors
52 Masters
3 ABD (all but dissertation)
1 Doctorate
0 Post-doctorate
2 Don't know

46. Have you ever received any formal instruction in the First Amendment?

51% Yes
49 No (GO TO QUESTION 49)

47. IF YES, would that have been before high school, during high school, and/or after high school? (Circle all that apply.)

(Responses add up to more than 100% due to multiple mentions. Total number of responses = 5947)

21% Before high school
75 During high school
54 After high school
1 Don't know

48. What year were you born? _____

Age
11% 18–28
27 29–39
27 40–50
32 51–61
3 62–72
0 73+

49. Are you male or female?

42% Male
58 Female

50. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

3% Yes
97 No

51. What is your race?

92% White/Caucasian
4 Black/African-American
0 American Indian or Alaska native
1 Asian
2 Some other race

Thank you for your participation.