

## High School Student Survey

(112,003 students)

### 1. What grade are you currently in?

- 2% Below 9th
- 29 9th
- 27 10th
- 23 11th
- 19 12th

People tend to get their news and information from many different sources. How often, if at all do your parents or guardians get news from each of the following sources?

### 2. From the newspaper?

- 35% Every day
- 22 Several times a week
- 19 About once a week
- 9 Less than once a week
- 6 Never
- 8 Don't know

### 3. From the radio?

- 36% Every day
- 28 Several times a week
- 11 About once a week
- 8 Less than once a week
- 7 Never
- 10 Don't know

### 4. From television?

- 66% Every day
- 21 Several times a week
- 5 About once a week
- 2 Less than once a week
- 2 Never
- 4 Don't know

### 5. From the Internet?

- 14% Every day
- 22 Several times a week
- 15 About once a week
- 16 Less than once a week
- 21 Never
- 12 Don't know

### 6. Do your parents read any weekly news magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek* or *U.S. News & World Report*?

- 25% Yes
- 51 No
- 24 Don't know

Think about where you get news, including news about your school. How often, if at all, do YOU get news from each of the following sources?

### 7. From the newspaper?

- 13% Every day
- 20 Several times a week
- 23 About once a week
- 21 Less than once a week
- 18 Never
- 5 Don't know

### 8. From the radio?

- 29% Every day
- 23 Several times a week
- 13 About once a week
- 12 Less than once a week
- 17 Never
- 5 Don't know

### 9. From television?

- 41% Every day
- 26 Several times a week
- 12 About once a week
- 9 Less than once a week
- 8 Never
- 4 Don't know

### 10. From the Internet?

- 20% Every day
- 22 Several times a week
- 16 About once a week
- 16 Less than once a week
- 21 Never
- 5 Don't know

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

- 20% Yes
- 77 No
- 4 Don't know

**12. How much news and information do you get about what is going on at your high school?**

- 21% A lot
- 45 Some
- 26 Not much
- 6 None at all
- 2 Don't know

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

- 4% All of the time
- 58 Some of the time
- 23 Little of the time
- 9 Not at all
- 6 Don't know

**14–17. Do you currently or have you recently participated in each of the following extra-curricular/after-school programs or activities?**

- |         |        |   |
|---------|--------|---|
| 38% Yes | 62% No | a) Performance Arts (including Music, Band, Dance, Theatre, Acting) |
| 57 Yes  | 43 No  | b) Sports   |
| 11 Yes  | 90 No  | c) Debate or speech clubs/competitions                              |
| 15 Yes  | 85 No  | d) Student Council or other forms of student government             |

**18. During an average week, how many total hours do you spend participating in extra-curricular/after-school activities? (Your best guess is fine.)**

- 24% 1–5
- 17 6–10
- 15 11–15
- 9 16–20
- 4 21–25
- 4 More than 25
- 27 None

**19. Have you ever taken classes in high school that dealt with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?**

- 58% Yes
- 42 No

**20. Have you ever taken classes in high school that discuss the role of media in society?**

- 52% Yes
- 48 No

**21. Have you ever taken classes in high school that dealt primarily with journalism skills?**

- 21% Yes
- 79 No

**22. Have you ever taken a class in high school where the teacher required as a class assignment that you read a newspaper or watch television news?**

- 75% Yes
- 25 No

**23. How frequently do you discuss issues in the news with friends and/or family members?**

- 18% All of the time
- 44 Some of the time
- 28 Little of the time
- 8 Not at all
- 2 Don't know

24–35. Please indicate whether or not you have been actively involved in any of the following activities at your high school, and if not, whether you would like to be involved in such activities.

	Participant?		If NO: Would you like to be?			
24.	8%	Yes	92%	No	25. 23% Yes 77% No	Student newspaper
26.	4	Yes	96	No	27. 15 Yes 85 No	Student magazine with a news component (Category does <i>not</i> include student literary magazines or yearbook)
28.	4	Yes	96	No	29. 30 Yes 70 No	Student-run radio station with a news component
30.	5	Yes	95	No	31. 27 Yes 73 No	Student-run television station with a news component
32.	5	Yes	95	No	33. 18 Yes 82 No	Student Internet or World-Wide Web publication with a news component
34.	5	Yes	95	No	35. 18 Yes 82 No	Any other form of student media with a news component

36–38. Do you currently . . .

35%	Yes	65%	No	Volunteer for a community service organization
32	Yes	68	No	Volunteer for service activities in a religious organization
28	Yes	72	No	Participate in community social clubs or organizations

39. During an average week, how many total hours do you spend participating in community related activities?

40%	1–5
10	6–10
3	11–15
2	16–20
1	21–25
2	More than 25
42	None

40. 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.

12%	Strongly agree
23	Mildly agree
19	Mildly disagree
25	Strongly disagree
21	Don’t know

41. 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?

32%	Too much freedom
10	Too little freedom
37	About right
21	Don’t know

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

42. People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions.

51%	Strongly agree
32	Mildly agree
5	Mildly disagree
2	Strongly disagree
10	Don’t know

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

8%	Strongly agree
8	Mildly agree
11	Mildly disagree
63	Strongly disagree
10	Don’t know

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

- 40% Strongly agree
- 30 Mildly agree
- 14 Mildly disagree
- 7 Strongly disagree
- 9 Don't know

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

- 24% Strongly agree
- 27 Mildly agree
- 22 Mildly disagree
- 14 Strongly disagree
- 13 Don't know

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

- 30% Strongly agree
- 28 Mildly agree
- 18 Mildly disagree
- 11 Strongly disagree
- 13 Don't know

**47. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?**

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

- 17% Strongly agree
- 33 Mildly agree
- 18 Mildly disagree
- 9 Strongly disagree
- 23 Don't know

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

- 27% Personally think about
- 36 Take for granted
- 37 Don't know

**49. 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?**

- 10% Personally think about
- 56 Take for granted
- 34 Don't know

Below is 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:

**50. Under current law, do Americans have the legal right to burn the American flag as a means of political protest?**

- 25% Yes
- 75 No

**51. Under current law, do the courts have the right to send reporters to jail for refusing to reveal a news source? (Correct answer depends on state.)**

- 31% Yes
- 69 No

**52. Under current law, does the government have the right to restrict indecent material on the Internet?**

- 49% Yes
- 51 No

**53. Under current law, does someone have the legal right to shout "fire" in a crowded arena as a prank?**

- 23% Yes
- 77 No

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

**54. How likely are you to pursue a career in journalism once your formal schooling has been completed?**

- 5% Very likely
- 12 Somewhat likely
- 24 Not too likely
- 49 Not at all likely
- 10 Don't know

**55. How likely are you to go on to college after high school?**

- 72% Very likely
- 15 Somewhat likely
- 4 Not too likely
- 3 Not at all likely
- 6 Don't know

**56. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years old.**

**57. What is your gender?**

- 50% Male
- 50 Female

**58. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?**

- 15% Yes
- 85 No

**59. What is your race?**

- 68% White/Caucasian
- 14 Black/African-American
- 2 American Indian or Alaska native
- 4 Asian
- 12 Some other race

**60. Thinking about your family's current financial situation do you consider yourself to be rich, upper income, middle income, lower income, or poor?**

- 5% Rich
- 23 Upper income
- 59 Middle income
- 10 Lower income
- 4 Poor

**61. What is your approximate overall high school GPA?**

- 7% 0.0–2.0 (or 0–75)
- 31 2.1–3.0 (or 76–85)
- 31 3.1–3.5 (or 86–90)
- 22 3.6–4.0 (or 91–95)
- 9 Over 4.0 (over 95)

**62. Which of the following grades is closest to your current overall grade point average?**

- 28% A
- 42 B
- 23 C
- 4 D
- 2 F

**63. Which of the following best describes you?**

- 90% I was born a U.S. citizen
- 5 I was born in another country, but became a U.S. citizen
- 5 I was born in another country, and I am not a U.S. citizen

**Thank you for your participation.**