



2022

Civics Essay and Video Contest

for high school students

Sponsored by



Federal Judges Association

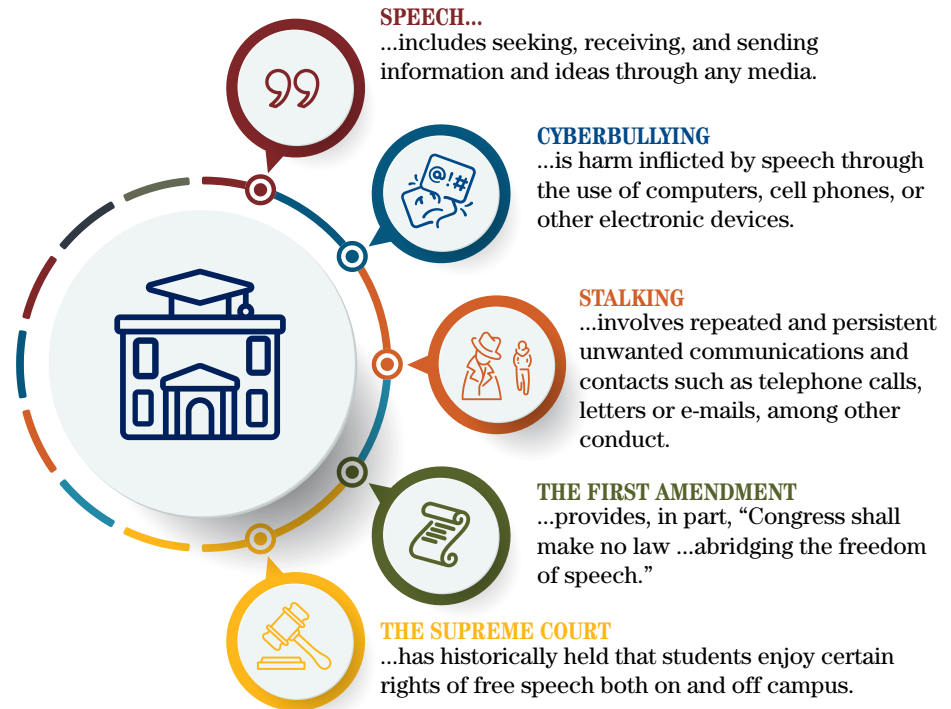


Federal Bar
Association

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

1791	First Amendment ratified
1973	First handheld mobile phone demonstrated by John F. Mitchell.
1977	Home computers marketed
1981	First portable computer developed
1992	First text message sent from computer to cell phone reading "Merry Christmas"
1997	First social media site, SixDegrees, allows users to upload profiles and contacts
2003	Myspace founded and ushers in modern era of social media
2006	Passing of Megan Meier; later led to first cyberbullying criminal indictment
2007	Ordinance passed in Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, prohibiting harassment utilizing electronic medium (Municipal Code §201.030)
2008	H.B. 6123 introduced to amend Chapter 41, Title 18, U.S. Code with respect to cyberbullying
2010	Instagram launches as a photo-sharing platform

What Types of Student Speech Should a School Control?



The Federal Judges Association and the Federal Bar Association invite students to consider the question:

In light of the First Amendment, what type of social media posts should schools be allowed to punish as cyberbullying? Your essay submission or video submission should:

1. State your proposed rule
2. Present your best arguments in support of the rule
3. Discuss whether it matters where the speech is sent or received
4. Cite relevant sources, statutes, cases and/or historical events that support your arguments

Relevant Court Cases

Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L. (2021): Student who failed to make the varsity cheerleading squad posted images on Snapchat expressing her frustration with the school. The student was off campus when she posted the images, but the school punished her anyway.

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent (1969): To protest the Vietnam War, Students wore black armbands at school. The principal suspended them. Tinker is the central case establishing that students have certain First Amendment rights at school.

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986): Disciplining a student for use of obscene language at school event.

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988): School district control of school newspaper.

West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette: Students reciting political pledges, such as the Pledge of Allegiance.

SEE page 2 or CLICK on the link below for complete entry rules and essay and video submission requirements!

[Click Here](#)

for more sources and to access important guidance for your essay!

*<https://www.fedbar.org/about-us/outreach/civics-essay-contest>