

THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND PRESENTS:

The Hope & Stanley Adelstein Free Speech Essay Competition

ELIGIBILITY: All high school juniors and seniors in public, private, parochial, charter, and home schools in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Portage, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Summit Counties.

ESSAY SUBJECT: "What The Freedom of Speech of the U.S. Constitution means to me". Maximum of 300 words.

DEADLINE: February 15, 2012.

CRITERIA FOR AWARDS: Clarity, content, originality, and significance of the essay

WINNERS: 20 essays will be selected by the judges who will rank the top three winners. Winners will be notified by March 30, 2012.

AWARDS:

FIRST PRIZE: \$1,000	SECOND PRIZE: \$750	THIRD PRIZE: \$500	17 NEXT WINNERS: \$100 each	TEACHER AWARDS: \$250 for teacher of top three winners
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Top 3 winners will read their essays at a City Club Forum to be broadcasted on radio and television, YouTube and The City Club website.

20 Finalists and their guests will be invited to attend the Essay Competition luncheon Forum and receive a one year City Club membership and a Certificate of Recognition.

WINNING ESSAYS WILL BE POSTED ON THE CITY CLUB WEBSITE

JUDGES: A panel of judges will be selected from The City Club membership and the community. All entries must include entrant's name, age, grade, school, home address, home telephone number, e-mail address and name, home address and e-mail address of entrant's teacher. Entries should be sent to The City Club, Attention: Free Speech Competition, 850 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114.

ENTRY TO INCLUDE: A cover letter that states, "This is my original document and does not include any previous composition by another." The statement must be signed by entrant.



Freedom of

Speech

Classroom Starters

1. Why do you think the freedom of speech is considered our most important right?
2. If freedom of speech is important because it protects citizens' rights to express themselves, what do you think about the speech that is hate based? Is that protected? Should it be?
3. React to the following statement: "I am thankful for all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech." Do you agree or disagree and why?
4. React to the following statement: "If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all." Do you agree or disagree and why?
5. In what ways does the freedom of speech affect your everyday lives?
6. What does this quote from Voltaire mean to you? "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."
7. How does the freedom of speech make our democracy work?
8. What example can you think of when there should not be a freedom of speech?
9. Generate a list on the board from the students of examples of freedom of speech. Then have student rank the examples in order of importance.
10. What would the United States be like if freedom of speech was abolished?

