

**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS
SURVEY
GENERAL POPULATION
(2005)**

Q1: As you may know, the First Amendment is part of the U.S. Constitution. Can you name any of the specific rights that are guaranteed by the First Amendment?

Freedom of the press	14%
Freedom of speech	58%
Freedom of religion	16%
Right to petition	1%
Right of assembly/association	10%
Right to bear arms/or guns	15%
Right to trial by jury/Fair trial	2%
Right to privacy	1%
Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure	0%
Right to protest	1%
Right to vote	1%
Right of equality	0%
Right of choice	0%
Right of happiness	3%
Right to life	2%
Right of Mobility	0%
Other (Specify)	2%
Don't Know	31%
Refused	1%
Total Count	1000

IQ2. The U.S. Constitution protects certain rights, but not everyone considers each right important. I am going to read you some rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Please tell me how important it is that you have that right. Is it essential that you have that right, important but not essential, or not that important?

Q2a. The right to assemble, march, protest, or petition the government?

Essential	67%
Important but not essential	24%
Not important	8%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q2b.The right to speak freely about whatever you want?

Essential	80%
Important but not essential	18%
Not important	1%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q2c.The right to practice the religion of your choice?

Essential	89%
Important but not essential	10%
Not important	1%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q2d.The right to practice NO religion?

Essential	68%
Important but not essential	22%
Not important	8%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total Count	1000

Q2e.The right to be informed by a free press?

Essential	70%
Important but not essential	24%
Not important	5%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q2f.The right to own firearms?

Essential	45%
Important but not essential	31%
Not important	22%
Don't know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q2g.The right to privacy?

Essential	85%
Important but not essential	14%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q2h.The right to a fair trial?

Essential	93%
Important but not essential	7%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q3. 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?

Too much freedom	43%
Too little freedom	12%
About right	43%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Overall, the news media tries to report the news without bias.

Strongly agree	14%
Mildly agree	22%
Mildly disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	37%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

IQ5. I'm going to read a list of roles the media CAN assume. I'd like you to tell me how important each of these roles SHOULD be; very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all. First...

Q5a. That the news media educate the public about complex issues?

Very important	65%
Somewhat important	27%
Not very important	6%
Not important at all	2%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q5b. That the news media reports information accurately?

Very important	91%
Somewhat important	6%
Not very important	2%
Not important at all	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q5c. That the news media keep public officials accountable?

Very important	75%
Somewhat important	19%
Not very important	3%
Not important at all	2%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q5d. That the news media provide broad coverage of current events?

Very important	73%
Somewhat important	24%
Not very important	2%
Not important at all	1%
Don't know	0%
Total Count	1000

IQ6. Now I'm going to read that list again, and I'd like you to rate how well the media, in general, FULFILLS each of these roles. Please rate their job as excellent, good, fair or poor. How good a job does the news media, in general, do...

Q6a. Educating the public about complex issues?

Excellent	6%
Good	37%
Fair	35%
Poor	21%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q6b. Reporting information accurately?

Excellent	5%
Good	34%
Fair	43%
Poor	17%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q6c. Keeping public officials accountable?

Excellent	7%
Good	35%
Fair	39%
Poor	19%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q6d. Providing broad coverage of current events?

Excellent	18%
Good	45%
Fair	26%
Poor	11%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q7b. Overall, where would say you get most of your news from?

RECORD VERBATIM	99%
Don't Know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q7c. Overall, how would you rate the job (Q7b) is doing... excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	27%
Good	52%
Fair	17%
Poor	3%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	997

Q7d. Would you say the overall performance of news on television, newspapers and radio has been improving, staying about the same, or getting worse?

Improving	27%
Staying about the same	43%
Getting worse	28%
Don't know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q7e. In thinking about (Q7b), would you say that it has been improving, staying about the same, or getting worse?

Improving	36%
Staying about the same	52%
Getting worse	11%
Don't know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	997

IQ8. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Q9. Newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of a story.

Strongly agree	55%
Mildly agree	20%
Mildly disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	11%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q10a. Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.

Strongly agree	36%
Mildly agree	22%
Mildly disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	28%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	1%
Total Count	1000

IQ12. As you may or may not know, a blog is a journal that is available on the internet. The activity of posting entries to a blog is called “blogging” and someone who keeps a blog is called a “blogger.” Blog content is not currently regulated, and can have the feel of a personal journal or be used to convey information or offer commentary.

Q12. Do you use blogs?

Yes	7%
No	92%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

IQ19. Changing the subject a bit, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...

Continue	100%
Total Count	1000

Q19b. When a news story relies on an unnamed source, one should question the accuracy of that story

Strongly agree	68%
Mildly agree	21%
Mildly disagree	7%
Strongly disagree	3%
Don't Know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q19c. News stories that rely on unnamed sources should not be published in the first place.

Strongly agree	34%
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Mildly agree	19%
Mildly disagree	25%
Strongly disagree	19%
Don't Know	3%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q19d. Journalists should keep secret the identity of a confidential news source even when ordered by a court to disclose the identity of that source.

Strongly agree	35%
Mildly agree	24%
Mildly disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	18%
Don't Know	5%
Refused	0%
Total Count	994

Q20. There is legislation being proposed in congress to create a law that would protect journalists from being required to disclose confidential sources in federal court. Would you favor or oppose this legislation?

Favor strongly	32%
Favor mildly	24%
Oppose mildly	19%
Oppose strongly	19%
Don't know	5%
Refused	1%
Total Count	1000

IQ21a. Just a few weeks ago, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that journalists are required to reveal their sources to an investigating grand jury.

Q21a. Do you approve or disapprove of the Court's ruling that journalists are required to release their confidential sources during grand jury investigations?

Strongly approve	34%
Mildly approve	23%
Mildly disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	24%
Don't know	6%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q21b. Do you think the U.S. Court of Appeals' ruling violates the First Amendment rights of American journalists?

Yes	46%
No	42%
Don't know	11%
Refused	1%
Total Count	1000

IQ22. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions for classification purposes only...

Q22. In what year were you born?

18-24	12%
25-29	8%
30-34	8%
35-39	11%
40-44	12%
45-49	9%
50-64	23%
65-79	15%
80 and up	2%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	983

Q23. What was the last grade of school you completed?

Grade school or less (1-8 years)	1%
Some high school (9-11 years)	7%
High school grad (12 years)	41%
Trade school (VOL)	1%
Some college (1-3 years)/Associate degree	26%
College graduate (4 years)	13%
Post-graduate (4+ years)	10%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	1000

Q24. Do you consider yourself White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, or something else?

White	79%
Black/African American	8%
Hispanic	3%
Asian	1%
Native American	1%
Biracial (vol.)	1%
Other (Specify)	4%
Don't know	0%
Refused	2%
Total Count	1000

Q25. For classification purposes only, is the total yearly income of all the members of your household less than \$40,000, or \$40,000 or more?

Less than \$40,000	35%
\$40,000 or more	56%
Don't know	1%
Refused	8%
Total Count	1000

Q26a. And is that...

Under \$10,000	8%
\$10,000 to less than \$20,000	27%
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	34%
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	26%
Don't know	1%
Refused	4%
Total Count	269

Q26b. And is that...

\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	19%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	32%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	21%
\$100,000 or more	18%
Don't know	3%
Refused	7%
Total Count	641

Q27. Are you Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical Christian, Jewish, or some other religion?

Catholic	21%
Protestant	21%
Evangelical Christian	14%
Jewish	2%
Other (Specify)	36%
Don't know	1%
Refused	6%
Total Count	1000

Q27. Are you Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical Christian, Jewish, or some other religion? (RECODED)

Catholic	21%
Protestant	33%
Evangelical Christian	14%
Jewish	2%
Christian – general (vol.)	6%
No religious affiliation (vol.)	11%
Other	6%
Don't know	1%
Refused	6%
Total Count	1000

Q28. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, an Independent, or something else?

Democrat	33%
Republican	32%
Independent	22%
Other	6%
Don't know	3%
Refused	3%
Total Count	1000

Q29. Politically speaking, do you think of yourself as Liberal, Conservative, or Moderate? (PROBE: LIBERAL/CONSERVATIVE, MILDLY/STRONGLY)

Strongly liberal	8%
Mildly liberal	11%
Moderate	40%
Mildly conservative	18%
Strongly conservative	16%
Don't know	5%
Refused	2%
Total Count	1000

Q30. For whom did you vote in the 2004 presidential election?

George W. Bush	40%
John Kerry	32%
Ralph Nader	1%
Someone Else (Specify)	1%
Didn't vote	14%
Ineligible to vote/Can't vote	2%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	8%
Total Count	1000

Q31. How many phone numbers do you have in your household that are connected to phones that can be answered by a person, EXCLUDING cell phones?

1	74%
2	17%
3	4%
4	2%
5	0%
6	0%
7 or more	0%
Don't Know	0%
Refused	2%
Total Count	1000

Q31A. How many adults, at least 18 years of age or older, live in your household?

1	23%
2	57%
3	13%
4	4%
5	1%
6	0%
7 or more	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	1000

Q32. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%
Total Count	1000