

**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS
SURVEY
JOURNALISTS
(2005)**

ST1: 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	57%
Freedom of speech	66%
Freedom of religion	35%
Right to petition	6%
Right of assembly/association	39%
Other (Specify)	1%
Don't Know	3%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

IST2. 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. For each, please tell me how important it is that you have that right: is it essential that you have this right, important but not essential, or not important. First, how important it is that you have...

ST2. The right to assemble, march, protest, or petition the government.

Essential	88%
Important but not essential	12%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

ST3. The right to speak freely about whatever you want.

Essential	92%
Important but not essential	7%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

ST4. The right to practice the religion of your choice.

Essential	95%
Important but not essential	5%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

ST5. The right to practice NO religion.

Essential	90%
Important but not essential	8%
Not important	1%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

ST6. The right to be informed by a free press.

Essential	96%
Important but not essential	4%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

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ST7. The right to own firearms.

Essential	25%
Important but not essential	42%
Not important	31%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

ST8. The right to privacy.

Essential	80%
Important but not essential	17%
Not important	0%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

ST9. The right to a fair trial.

Essential	97%
Important but not essential	3%
Not important	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

ST10. 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	3%
Too little freedom	33%
About right	62%
Don't Know	1%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

ST11. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: Newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of a story.

Strongly agree	95%
Mildly agree	3%
Mildly disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

ST12. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.

Strongly agree	72%
Mildly agree	20%
Mildly disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	3%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

RO1. Overall, how would you rate the job the news media is doing... excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	6%
Good	49%
Fair	37%
Poor	7%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

RO2. How would you rate the job NETWORK TELEVISION NEWS is doing... excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	3%
Good	32%
Fair	41%
Poor	21%
Don't know	2%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

RO3. How would you rate the job CABLE TELEVISION NEWS is doing... excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	3%
Good	35%
Fair	38%
Poor	20%
Don't know	3%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

IR04. I'm going to read a list of roles the media can assume. 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...

RO4. Educating the public about complex issues?

Excellent	3%
Good	31%
Fair	49%
Poor	17%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

RO5. Reporting information accurately?

Excellent	6%
Good	66%
Fair	27%
Poor	1%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

RO6. Keeping public officials accountable?

Excellent	8%
Good	37%
Fair	42%
Poor	12%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

RO7. Providing broad coverage of current events?

Excellent	17%
Good	49%
Fair	29%
Poor	5%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

NEW1. Changing topics... do you feel that the emergence of the Internet has made journalism better, worse, or has it not made much of a difference?

Better	61%
Worse	18%
Not much difference	13%
Both (vol.)	6%
Don't know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

NEW2. Has the Internet increased or decreased the deadline pressure YOU face, or has there been no change?

Increased	33%
Decreased	8%
No change	56%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

NEW2. Has the Internet increased or decreased the deadline pressure YOU face, or has there been no change?

Increased	65%
Decreased	5%
No change	25%
Don't know	4%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

NEW4. Thinking now about Weblogs (WEB-logs), how would you rate Weblogs in general for their news coverage, excellent, good, fair or poor?

Excellent	2%
Good	9%
Fair	41%
Poor	32%
Don't know	16%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

NEW5. Do you consider blogs to be a source of news?

Yes	32%
No	59%
Don't know	8%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

NEW6. Which of the following two statements comes closest to your opinion?

Bloggers are real journalists though they may not adhere to commonly held ethical standards	13%
Bloggers are not real journalists since they don't adhere to commonly held ethical standards	75%
Bloggers do adhere to journalism standards (VOL)	1%
Don't know	9%
Refused	2%
Total Count	300

NEW7. Do you think the material posted on Internet Weblogs (WEB-logs) should have the same First Amendment protections as printed material such as books and newspapers?

Yes	85%
No	10%
Don't know	5%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

**NEW8. How much do you think Weblogs (WEB-logs) have changed the profession of journalism in the past few years?
A lot, some, a little, or not at all?**

A lot	14%
Some	39%
A little	33%
Not at all	9%
Don't know	5%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

NEW9. How often do you read Weblogs (WEB-logs)? Daily, several times a week, once a week, once every few weeks, rarely or never?

Daily	14%
Several times a week	13%
Once a week	14%
Once every few weeks	11%
Rarely	32%
Never	16%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

NEW10. Do you read Weblogs (WEB-logs) as part of your work duties, for personal reasons, or some other reason?

Work duties	36%
Personal reasons	35%
Both/work duties and personal reasons (vol)	19%
Some other reason (specify)	3%
Don't know	3%
Refused	3%
Total Count	252

ISO1. Changing the subject a bit, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

SO1. Journalists should be allowed to keep a news source confidential.

Strongly agree	90%
Mildly agree	6%
Mildly disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

SO2. When a news story relies on an unnamed source, one should question the accuracy of that story.

Strongly agree	39%
Mildly agree	35%
Mildly disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	11%
Don't know	2%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

SO3. News stories that rely on unnamed sources should not be published in the first place.

Strongly agree	5%
Mildly agree	9%
Mildly disagree	32%
Strongly disagree	55%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

SO4. The use of confidential sources is essential to MY ability to report some news stories to the public.

Strongly agree	55%
Mildly agree	21%
Mildly disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	12%
Don't know	1%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

SO5. 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	70%
Mildly agree	19%
Mildly disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	1%
Refused	2%
Total Count	300

SO6. 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?

Strongly favor	70%
Mildly favor	17%
Mildly oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	6%
Don't know	2%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

SO7. Thinking about all the stories that you have authored in your career, approximately what percentage were based, at least in part, on confidential sources?

Less than 5%	42%
5-25%	51%
More than 25%	6%
DK/Ref.	1%
Total Count	300

SO8. Now think about the stories you've authored in your career that began with information from confidential sources. Approximately what percentage would have still been published if you had NOT been allowed to use the confidential source?

Less than 5%	23%
5-25%	17%
More than 25%	49%
DK/Ref.	11%
Total Count	263

SO9. Of those stories that began with confidential sources, approximately what percentage were later reported using only IDENTIFIED sources?

Less than 5%	9%
5-25%	19%
More than 25%	60%
DK/Ref.	12%
Total Count	187

SO10. Does your organization's policy currently require you to receive approval from a supervisor before granting confidentiality to a source?

Yes	62%
No	30%
We don't have a policy/my organization forbids confidential sources	4%
Don't know	3%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

ISO11. 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.

SO11. 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	1%
Mildly approve	7%
Mildly disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	67%
Don't know	3%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

SO12. Do you think the U.S. Court of Appeals' ruling violates the First Amendment rights of American journalists?

Yes	81%
No	13%
Don't know	6%
Refused	1%
Total Count	300

SO13. Part of the Court's ruling was based on the fact that grand jury testimony is SECRET and SEALED. Do you agree or disagree with the logic of the Court's ruling?

Strongly agree	4%
Mildly agree	21%
Mildly disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	45%
Don't know	4%
Refused	2%
Total Count	300

IAW1. Changing topics... Recently, it became known that a syndicated columnist accepted a large sum of money from the U.S. Department of Education to promote the 'No Child Left Behind Act'. Since then, other similar cases of journalists taking money from the government or from politicians have come to light.

AW1. In general, how common do you think it is for journalists to take money from governments, politicians, or other interests... Very common, somewhat common, somewhat uncommon or very uncommon?

Very common	3%
Somewhat common	8%
Somewhat uncommon	19%
Very uncommon	67%
Don't know	3%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

AW2. Do you think it's ethical or unethical for journalists to take money from governments, politicians, or other interests?

Very ethical	1%
Somewhat unethical	4%
Very unethical	95%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

AW3. Before I mentioned it earlier, had you already heard about the columnist who accepted a large sum of money from the U.S. Department of Education to promote the 'No Child Left Behind' Act in his column?

Yes	79%
No	21%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

IAW4. The syndicated columnist who accepted a large sum of money from the U.S. Department of Education to promote the 'No Child Left Behind Act' in his columns is named Armstrong Williams.

AW4. As a journalist, do you consider Armstrong Williams' conduct to be acceptable or unacceptable?

Very acceptable	0%
Somewhat acceptable	1%
Somewhat unacceptable	7%
Very unacceptable	92%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

AW5. As you may know, Armstrong Williams accepted a large sum of money from the U.S. Department of Education but he didn't disclose this fact to his readers. Would you find his conduct acceptable or unacceptable if he had disclosed this fact to his readers?

Very acceptable	3%
Somewhat acceptable	22%
Somewhat unacceptable	18%
Very unacceptable	55%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

AW6. Armstrong Williams is a conservative Republican... Knowing this, would you say Armstrong Williams' conduct is more acceptable, less acceptable, or does it not change anything?

More acceptable	3%
Less acceptable	5%
Doesn't change anything	91%
Don't know	1%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

AW7. Thinking of your own news organization, are you aware of instances where a journalist in the newsroom was paid by government officials or politicians while reporting the news?

Yes	1%
No	99%
Don't know	0%
Don't know	0%
Total Count	300

IQD1. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions for classification purposes only...

QD1. What is your PRIMARY job function? Are you an editor or news director, reporter, TV producer, news analyst or columnist?

Editor/News Director	43%
Reporter	47%
TV Producer	4%
News analyst/columnist	5%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

QD2. For how many years have you worked as a professional journalist?

< 10 years	27%
10-24 years	40%
25+ years	33%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	298

QD3. In what year were you born (recoded)?

18-34	25%
35-49	39%
50+	36%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	297

QD4. What was the last grade of school you completed?

High school grad (12 years)	2%
Some college (1-3 years)/Associate degree	7%
College graduate (4 years)	69%
Post-graduate (4+ years)	21%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%
Total Count	300

QD5. Do you consider yourself White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or something else?

White	83%
Black/African American	6%
Hispanic	6%
Asian	1%
Native American	0%
Biracial (vol.)	1%
Don't know	0%
Refused	3%
Total Count	300

QD6. 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	21%
\$40,000 or more	76%
Don't know	0%
Refused	3%
Total Count	300

QD7. And is that...

\$10,000 to less than \$20,000	7%
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	41%
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	49%
Don't know	0%
Refused	3%
Total Count	61

QD8. And is that...

\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	27%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	25%
\$100,000 or more	34%
Don't know	0%
Refused	5%
Total Count	228

QD9. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, an Independent, or something else?

Democrat	33%
Republican	10%
Independent	49%
Don't know	0%
Refused	7%
Total Count	300

QD10. Politically speaking do you think of yourself as liberal, conservative or moderate? (For liberal or conservative PROBE: mildly/strongly)

Strongly liberal	13%
Mildly liberal	15%
Moderate	53%
Mildly conservative	7%
Strongly conservative	3%
Don't know	2%
Refused	7%
Total Count	300

QD11. For whom did you vote in the 2004 presidential election?

George W. Bush	19%
John Kerry	52%
Ralph Nader	1%
Didn't vote	4%
Ineligible to vote/can't vote	0%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	21%
Total Count	300

QD12. Gender

Male	70%
Female	30%
Total Count	300