

## Lesson Plan on the First Amendment

Corley/United States History

Sumter High School

Grade Level: 11

Objective: To understand the limits of the freedom of press/speech as stated in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as related to high school publications.

United States History and Constitution Standard 1.5: Explain how the fundamental principle of limited government is protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, including democracy, republicanism, federalism, the separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, and individual rights.

Resources: <http://my.hsj.org> My High School Journalism, <http://www.newseum.org>, <http://www.poynter.org>, **C-SPAN TV**, Radio Videos | [c-span.org](http://c-span.org) *The American Pageant*, 12<sup>th</sup> (Houghton Mifflin), *The American Political Tradition*, (Random, 1974), <http://hsbj.org>, High School Broadcast Journalism Project.

### Procedures/Activities:

Begin with a general discussion about the First Amendment and the press.

Talk about our high school newspaper and topics they have enjoyed.

Bring up some of the controversial articles that they may have read.

Brainstorm topics that they would like to see researched and included.

Take students to the computer lab and have them look at/research recommended websites.

Discuss the ability of the high school principal to ask the newspaper advisor to remove an article from the upcoming publication.

Question whether high school students have all the Constitutional rights of an adult.

Assessment: Students are to write a one-page reaction to the two-day discussion/research of the First Amendment and its application to a high school newspaper. Students will be encouraged to voice any surprises, frustration, and understanding of limits in their essays.