

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Five for the First
A Short Daily Lesson Plan About the First Amendment

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Title of Lesson Plan: CIPA and one court's view

Overview and Rationale

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), discussed in previous "Five for the First" lessons, has a new and potentially good spin to it. A court in Missouri told a school it could not block websites supporting gays and lesbians, especially while allowing anti-gay and lesbian sites to be accessible. In other words, filtering has to be viewpoint neutral.

Goals for Understanding

- Essential Questions
 - What about sites you can access at your school? Do they allow, for instance, access to pro-military sites while blocking those critical of the military?
 - Does filtering appear to be viewpoint neutral?
 - If not, what discrepancies have you seen?

Resources/Materials

The Student Press Law Center ran an article Feb. 17, 2012, right after this ruling became public. Be sure to check for updates if you use this plan because the school had not decided at that time if it would appeal.

<http://www.splc.org/news/newsflash.asp?id=2333>

Activity

- Discuss what students have found on sites that seem to be promoting one side of any issues.
- Discuss how that creates learning problems when researching.

Assessment

- Students participate in the discussion.
- Students begin to generate a list of sites that promote one side of an issue while the other side is blocked.

AND/ OR

- Send that list with the following Information to JEA's Scholastic Press Rights Commission chair, John Bowen <jabowen@ kent.edu>

Name of student media (or individual name if individual research)

School name (and city/state)

Name of site blocked

URL of site blocked

Name of site unblocked (for viewpoint comparison)

URL of topic site that was unblocked (for viewpoint comparison)

Filtering system your school uses