

Group Research and Presentation: Supreme Court Case Law and the Limits of Free Speech

Instructions: Your group will have 20-25 minutes to craft a several minute presentation to the class. You will be given one of the issues below, and are expected to teach it to the group while adding your discoveries to the class graphic organizer. Your presentation should include the prompts specific to your group below, and use examples/evidence from the websites provided to reinforce your point. As you research, you should fill out your group's section in the organizer. When you present, you should help the listening groups fill out theirs. Appoint a scribe to assist in the notetaking on my computer. Finished? Practice your presentation – do you hit all of the requirements?

Group 1: Fighting Words

Define “Fighting Words” How do they differ from purely hateful or aggressive speech? When your arguing with the police, what words, phrases, or intent will get you into trouble? On the other hand, what can you say and get away with it? What SCOTUS case established important case law on this issue? *Begin with the following site, but feel free to use others:*
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/ohio-court-girls-curses-at-cops-were-fighting-words>
Or a thorough challenge: <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu/gvpt339/fighting.html>

Group 2: True Threat

What is a “True Threat?” Give us some examples of speech not protected under this clause. What SCOTUS case established important case law on this issue? *Begin with the following site, but feel free to use others:*
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/true-threats>

Group 3: Obscenity

What is “obscene?” What is the “Miller Standard?” What SCOTUS case established important case law on this issue? What is “obscene” by modern-day standards? *Begin with the following site, but feel free to use others:*
<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/frtrial/conlaw/obscenity.htm>

Group 4: Clear and Present Danger

What presents a “clear and present danger,” and what qualifies as promoting “imminent lawless action?” What SCOTUS case established important case law on this issue? *Begin with the following site, but feel free to use others:*
http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Clear_and_present_danger.html

Group 5: Defamation

What is defamation? What is Libel? What is Slander? How do they differ? What SCOTUS case established important case law on this issue? *Begin with the following site, but feel free to use others:*
<http://libelandslander.uslegal.com/>

Challenge:

<http://www.freedomforum.org/packages/first/defamationandfirstamendment/>

As you research, answer your prompts and complete your organizer for your assigned category of unprotected speech. When other groups present their findings, fill in all other boxes of the organizer. When you present, allow students time to take notes in their organizer.

Category of Unprotected Speech	Define the term(s), and reference a SCOTUS case that established case law on this issue	Real-life example
Fighting Words		
True Threats		
Obscenity		

<i>Category</i>	<i>Define the term(s), and reference a SCOTUS case that established case law on issue</i>	<i>Real-life example</i>
Clear and Present Danger		
Defamation. Libel and Slander with Malice		
Speech that competes with legitimate social or government interests.		