

**State of the First Amendment 2006**  
**Final Annotated Survey (Nov. 11, 2006)**

1. 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? (PROBE: Are there any others you can name?)

	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Freedom of the press	11%	12%	12%	14%	14%	16%	15%	16%	13%
Freedom of speech	49%	44%	60%	59%	58%	63%	58%	63%	56%
Freedom of religion	21%	13%	16%	16%	18%	22%	17%	20%	17%
Right to petition	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%
Right of assembly/association	10%	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	10%	14%	11%
DK/Ref. (to all questions/follow-ups)	N/A	N/A	37%	36%	35%	37%	35%	29%	36%

2. The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 200 years ago. This is what it says: ‘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.’ Based on your own feelings about the First Amendment, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Strongly agree	16%	10%	29%	41%	19%	19%	13%	8%
Mildly agree	12%	12%	10%	8%	15%	11%	10%	10%
Mildly disagree	22%	26%	19%	15%	18%	21%	16%	22%
Strongly disagree	45%	48%	39%	32%	42%	44%	56%	54%
DK/Ref.	5%	5%	3%	3%	7%	5%	5%	6%

3. 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?

	1997	1999	1999f	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Too much freedom	38%	53%	42%	51%	46%	42%	46%	42%	39%	40%
Too little freedom	9%	7%	8%	7%	8%	8%	9%	12%	10%	10%
About right	50%	37%	48%	41%	42%	49%	43%	44%	47%	47%
DK/Ref.	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	4%	2%

Now please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements ...

4. Newspapers should be allowed to freely criticize the U.S military about its strategy and performance.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Strongly agree	33%	32%	32%	36%	33%
Mildly agree	24%	22%	24%	23%	25%
Mildly disagree	18%	14%	12%	12%	11%
Strongly disagree	24%	30%	29%	26%	28%
DK/Ref.	1%	1%	4%	4%	3%

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

	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Strongly agree	23%	27%	32%	34%	31%	35%	34%	31%	41%
Mildly agree	28%	29%	27%	27%	26%	26%	25%	25%	22%
Mildly disagree	16%	15%	12%	9%	14%	10%	12%	14%	11%
Strongly disagree	31%	26%	28%	28%	27%	26%	26%	24%	23%
DK/Ref.	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	7%	3%

6. People should be allowed to say things in public that might be offensive to religious groups.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2005	2006
Strongly agree	22%	25%	29%	26%	23%	31%
Mildly agree	24%	22%	28%	23%	25%	24%
Mildly disagree	15%	16%	14%	14%	15%	16%
Strongly disagree	38%	35%	28%	36%	35%	27%
DK/Ref.	1%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%

7. People should be allowed to say things in public that might be offensive to racial groups.

	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Strongly agree	8%	8%	15%	16%	14%	18%	17%	21%	22%
Mildly agree	15%	13%	17%	18%	20%	20%	18%	22%	20%
Mildly disagree	14%	16%	15%	15%	16%	14%	14%	14%	13%
Strongly disagree	61%	62%	52%	49%	48%	47%	49%	39%	42%
DK/Ref.	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%

8. Please tell me which one of the following 3 statements you agree with the most: (1) Newspapers SHOULD BE allowed to publish sensitive and classified government information; (2) Newspapers SHOULD BE allowed to publish sensitive and classified government information ONLY WHEN it exposes government wrongdoing; or (3) Newspapers SHOULD NOT BE allowed to publish sensitive and classified government information.

	2006
Should be allowed to publish	12%
Should be allowed to publish ONLY WHEN wrongdoing	51%
Should NOT be allowed to publish	35%
DK/ref	3%

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

9. Newspapers should honor government requests to withhold publishing information that might hurt efforts to win the war on terrorism.

	2006
Strongly agree	57%
Mildly agree	18%
Mildly disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	12%
DK/ref	4%

10. Even during wartime, the press should be allowed to publish stories that criticize the actions of the government.

	2006
Strongly agree	38%
Mildly agree	28%
Mildly disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	18%
DK/ref	4%

11. Even during wartime, political candidates should be allowed to criticize the actions of government while campaigning.

	2006
Strongly agree	45%
Mildly agree	23%
Mildly disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	18%
DK/Ref.	2%