

The First Amendment guarantees all Americans the right to freely express themselves. That right takes five basic forms:

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of the Press
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom to Assemble (including to protest)
- Freedom to Petition the Government

Without protections guaranteed by the First Amendment, Americans would not enjoy the kind of open society everyone now takes for granted. To better educate people about the First Amendment, 1 for All - a new nationwide campaign - began on the 1st of July, 2010.

Supporting that campaign, Google and YouTube sponsored a contest which encouraged people to produce thirty-second videos demonstrating how the First Amendment allows them to:

- Speak;
- Rock; or
- Assemble

We learn more information about the contest - and its purpose - from Google's blog where David Drummond (the company's Chief Legal Officer) posted [this entry](#):

In the United States, our lives would be unrecognizable without the First Amendment. Every time you search, tweet, blog, pray (or not), gripe about your government, gather with your friends online or off, upload a video, read a newspaper or send an email to your member of Congress, you're enjoying the rights it guarantees:

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. We're celebrating the First Amendment on the 1st of July by joining news organizations, artists, librarians, lawyers, educators and many others in supporting 1 for All, a national campaign to teach Americans about the source of these fundamental freedoms. From now through July 25, you can show your support for the First Amendment by submitting a 30-second video that demonstrates your freedom to speak, rock or assemble. The best videos will be featured on YouTube, on TV and at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

At a time when restrictions on speech are increasing around the globe, we think it's essential to remind ourselves that we can't take freedom of expression for granted. Get informed, get involved and stand up with us for the First on the 1st.

See, also, the following stories to learn more about the First Amendment:

Censorship and Book Burning - Before and After the 1st Amendment

Freedom of the Press - Political Cartoons Ridicule U.S. Presidents

Free Speech Under Fire - America During WWI

Exposing Government Deception - The Pentagon Papers

Why the First Amendment - Freedom of Religion

Credits:

Video online, courtesy "1 for All" and YouTube.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/First-Amendment-1-for-All>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/First-Amendment-1-for-All>