

DID YOU KNOW?

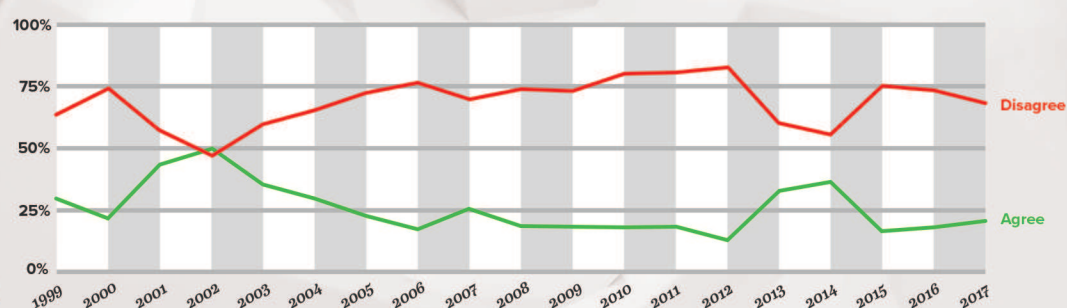
Information compiled by Sami Leung and Taylor Gage, Managing Editors
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Each year the Newseum Institute conducts a **State of the First Amendment Survey** to determine public attitudes towards First Amendment Rights. Notable results from the 2017 report include:



22.5%

of Americans agreed that First Amendment protections go too far



67.7%

of Americans agreed the media should act as a government watchdog



26.5%

of Americans said the First Amendment protects "fake news"



43.3%

of Americans agreed that colleges should be able to ban controversial speakers



42.8%

of Americans agreed that people should be able to post racist views on social media

CAMPUS VIEWS



"The First Amendment is truly unique, and it's important for more than just free speech. It also protects our rights to practice religion freely, to protest, petition and gives the press the backing needed to freely be a government watchdog. **Democracy is hard to maintain and ours won't continue if these rights are violated by government.**"

Kellie Chudzinski, editor-in-chief of the Loyolan and junior communication studies major

"It's important because **it's what separates us from other countries.** My parents are from Iran, for my mom especially, the reason why she left was because she never had the rights that a lot of women get here. **The reason why she loves the U.S. so much** and one of the things that makes it so great **is because of the First Amendment** and ability to say what we want."

Nina Safi, sophomore psychology major

"In today's political climate it's especially important because **people are not getting the freedoms they deserve.**"

Shauna Makabeh, junior sociology major



Why is the first amendment important in today's society?

"People need to feel like they have a voice. **Even if they have differing opinions.**"

Chiara Crenna-Armstrong, freshman accounting major

"[The First Amendment] allows active participation by everyone. **What is sometimes lost is people's willingness to listen and appreciate other peoples' dissenting opinions,** and that's probably the biggest threat to the First Amendment."

Ricardo Machón, psychology professor

"The First Amendment is very dear to me, **[it] is essential to my practice as a writer.** I don't think the First Amendment is perfect, self and outright censorship exists ... but **without it we wouldn't be living in anything we could consider a democracy.**"

Rubén Martínez, Fletch Jones Chair in Literature and Writing and professor of English