

SUMMARY OF FIRST AMENDMENT SOURCES/TEACHING

By Scott Paul, May 2010

Need for FA Education

- **Knight Foundation** Future of the First Amendment Study
 - Website: www.knightfoundation.org
 - Summary: In 2004, a journalism non-profit commissioned large study of student and educator opinions of the FA. The study found that students have little appreciation for or understanding of the FA. The study showed that FA basics are not being taught. It suggests that FA values can be imparted to students if taught properly.
 - Links:
 - Study information and results: <http://firstamendment.jideas.org/index.php>
 - AP Story run by MSNBC on 1A Study: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6888837/>
 - Knight Foundation info:
 - About: http://www.knightfoundation.org/about_knight/
 - Trustees: http://www.knightfoundation.org/about_knight/trustees/
 - Key Findings PDF Document: See “1st Amendment Study.pdf” file
- **First Amendment Center** (FAC):
 - Website: www.firstamendmentcenter.org
 - Summary: Among many other things, the FAC produces an annual State of the FA report on Americans’ attitudes toward the FA. One notable finding from the report is that Americans are not familiar with the text of the FA. For example, of the 1,003 people asked to name specific rights guaranteed by the FA, 55% listed freedom of speech, 18% listed freedom of religion, 16% listed freedom of the press, 14% listed right of assembly/association and 4% listed right to petition.
 - Links:
 - 2009 State of the FA report: <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/pdf/SOFA2009.analysis.tables.pdf>
 - State of the FA reports from 1997-2009: http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/sofa_reports/index.aspx
 - About the FAC: http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/about.aspx?item=about_fac
 - Key Findings PDF Document: See “State of the 1st Amendment.pdf” file

Potential Curriculum Materials

- **Constitutional Rights Foundation** (CRF)
 - Website: www.crf-usa.org
 - Summary: Non-profit focused on educating youth about the Bill of Rights. Produced dozens of lessons on the Bill of Rights. Many of these lessons are free, but some must be purchased. Lessons are broken into three components: world history, U.S. history and U.S. government.
 - About: <http://www.crf-usa.org/about-crf.html>

- Lessons:
 - Lesson on Mormon Persecution: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-17-1-b.html>
 - Establishment of Religion Lessons: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-22-2.html>
 - Religion and Society: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-20-4.html>
 - Religious Tolerance: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-17-1.html>
 - Communication of Ideas: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-24-3-communication-of-ideas.html>
 - Separating Church and State: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-13-4.html>
 - Right to an Impartial Jury and Free Press: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-11-1-1.html>
 - When Rights Conflict (Press, Religion): <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-10-1.html>
 - FA Lessons: <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bill-of-rights-in-action-archives-u-s-government.html#1st>
 - Current Issues Lessons (includes free expression and religion) : <http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bill-of-rights-in-action-archives-current-issues.html>
- **First Amendment Schools**
 - Website: www.firstamendmentschools.org
 - Summary: Non-profit focused on reforming the manner in which schools teach students about the FA. Building a network of schools committed to a strong FA curriculum. Does not provide much original content but does a good job of aggregating information from myriad sources.
 - About:
 - General: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/about/aboutindex.aspx>
 - History: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/about/history.aspx>
 - Vision Statement: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/about/vision.aspx>
 - Staff: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/about/aboutstaff.aspx>
 - Five Freedoms
 - Contains FAQs and Key Court Cases for each of the five FA freedoms (religion, speech, press, assemble, petition)
 - Resources:
 - Lesson Plans (links to CRF lessons on the Five Freedoms): <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/resources/lessonplans.aspx>
 - Discussion and examples of current policies and procedures regarding religious liberty, free speech and free press: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/resources/samplepolicies.aspx>
 - Publications list (primarily religion in schools texts): <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/resources/publications.aspx>
- **Newsweek**: Living Up to the First Amendment

- Summary: Program written by First Amendment Schools staff and published by Newsweek. 36-page packet consisting of 11 lesson plans (including handouts) covering topics from FA origins to the five FA freedoms.
- Link to PDF of 36-page packet:
http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/pdf_files/newsweek.pdf
- **FreedomForum.org**
 - Website: www.freedomforum.org
 - Summary: Pro-FA non-profit founded by members of the journalism industry. Provides detailed lesson plans on FA topics.
 - About
 - General:
<http://www.freedomforum.org/templates/document.asp?documentID=4020>
 - Board of Trustees:
<http://www.freedomforum.org/templates/document.asp?documentID=18012>
 -
 - Lessons:
 - 12 FA lesson plans:
<http://www.freedomforum.org/packages/first/curricula/educationforfreedom/index.htm>
- **Bill of Rights Institute:**
 - Website: www.billofrightsinstitute.org
 - Summary: Non-profit focused on education young people about the Bill of Rights. Provides resources for students and teachers including an extensive selection of brief lesson plans on Bill of Rights topics.
 - About
 - History: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/About/History/>
 - Staff: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/About/staff/>
 - Classroom Lessons:
 - First Amendment in History Lessons:
<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Teach/FreeResources/Lessons/?action=showCatDetails&id=8>
 - Bill of Rights in the News (lengthy list of lessons including FA lessons):
<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Teach/FreeResources/Lessons/?action=showDetails&id=277&ref=showCatD&catId=6>
- **3Rs**
 - I did not research this program as John Kesler is already involved with this program in Utah.
- **Exploring Constitutional Law**
 - Website: www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/home.html
 - Summary: Con Law website created and maintained by University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School faculty member Doug Linder. Contains many cases notes and materials on Con Law topics including a sizeable section on the FA. Geared more for law students, but basic enough to be understood by non-attorneys.

- Link (scroll to bottom of page for FA topics):
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/home.html>