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Current Context of the First Amendment

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Current Context of the First Amendment
Introduction

• How many people at UW possess basic knowledge of the First Amendment today?
  • How has the first amendment changed the history of the University of Wyoming?
  • How does the first amendment effect the community of University of Wyoming today?
  • How did we go about answering our question?
    • Quiz of quantitative data
    • Interview of quantitative and qualitative data
      • Institutional Research Board Approval
The Quiz Group

Madison Clark, Jacey Hays, Erin Buchanan, Sara Kostur
Why Did We Make a Quiz?

- Determine quantitative basic first amendment knowledge
- Determine interest
- Comparative data
The Process of Making the Quiz

- Creating questions
- Furthering our Knowledge
Administering the Quizzes

- The Location
- Persuasive Strategies
- The Reward
Questions of the Quiz

1. What are the freedoms included in the First Amendment?
   • Correct Answer: Press, assembly, petition, religion, speech

2. At what age does the First Amendment protect a person’s freedom of speech rights?
   • Correct Answer: None of the Above

3. The First Amendment protects a person’s right to burn the American Flag as a form of political protest.
   • Correct Answer: True

4. The First Amendment restricts government officials from interfering with an individual’s exercise of his or her religious beliefs.
   • Correct Answer: True

5. What are the first ten amendments of the Constitution?
   • Correct Answer: The Bill of Rights
What We Took Away from the Quiz

• Peoples’ Reactions
• Research Methods
The Interview Group

Ben Wetzel, Dashay Hunt, Brooke Meyers, and Gage Stroman
Interview Information

- In order to better determine the knowledge base of people on the University of Wyoming (UW) Campus in regards to the First Amendment, we designed a series of interview questions.
- We administered our 3 question voice-recorded interview to 50 participants in public places of the UW Campus, including the Simpson Plaza and the main entrance to the Coe Library.
- Before we could administer our tests we underwent UW Institutional Research Board approval of our questions, methods of administration, and method of recording our information.
Why We Did Interviews

- In addition to the quizzes, we wanted to know the base of knowledge without any options being present in order to test the overall retained knowledge of the First Amendment and its current context.
- To gain a more qualitative and relatable grasp on the basic knowledge of the first amendment, we decided to test participants first amendment knowledge through face to face interviews.
How We Selected Questions

• We intentionally chose and ordered the questions to see if people would change their answers on the rights provided by the First Amendment as they went, as well as to see if they would answer the first two questions, but be unable to tell us the actual rights in the First Amendment.

• All of these questions addressed basic First Amendment knowledge
Questions Asked:

• “What are the factors that restrict your right to exercise the First Amendment of the Constitution?”
• “Congress is considering removing the First Amendment from the Constitution, what are you most concerned about this effecting?”
• “What are the rights provided by the First Amendment of the Constitution?”
What We Took Away From the Interviews

• Generally people do have a base knowledge of the rights provided by the First Amendment
• Generally people do not understand the implementation of those rights
• Generally people are not confident on the rights provided in the First Amendment
• Generally people are uninformed of the First Amendment and how it relates to their current day to day life
Quotations

• **Question 1 Responses**: Interview #33: “Uhhh talking crap to cops? That’ll probably get them pissed at you.”

• Interview #50: “What else, restricts my rights, besides like, having a vagina? Ummm… Basically the patriarchy.”

• **Question 2 Responses**: Interview #37: “I don’t know… I don’t think it would be a big deal.”

• Interview #32: “The government telling me what I can and can’t say.”

• **Question 3 Responses**: Interview #19: “What is the first amendment to the constitution? Is that freedom of speech? No that’s not freedom of speech.”

• Interview #46: “It has something to do with the law”
Demographical Data of Participants

- **Occupation**: 94% Students, 6% Other
- **Gender**: 50% Male, 50% Female
- **Family Size**: 75% 3 or less, 13% 4-5 members, 8% 6-7 members, 4% 8 or more
- **Region Raised In**: 87% Outside U.S., 3% Northeast, 2% South, 2% Southwest, 2% Midwest, 1% West
Quiz Analysis

• 5 question quiz
  1. Targets knowledge of composition of first amendment
     • The rights explicitly stated: Speech, Religion, Petition, Press, and Assembly
  2. Targets knowledge of when first amendment can operate
     • First amendment is applicable as soon as one becomes a U.S. citizen, regardless of age
  3. Targets knowledge of first amendment in application
     • First amendment allows the U.S. flag to be burned
  4. Targets knowledge of specific first amendment rights
     • First amendment does restrict government officials from interfering with individuals practicing religious beliefs
  5. Targets knowledge of identification of first amendment
     • The first amendment resides within the Bill of Rights

• Designed to test basic knowledge of first amendment
Interview Analysis

• 3 question interview
  1. Targeted knowledge of factors that impact usage of rights of first amendment
     • Time, place, and manner impact first amendment rights
  2. Targeted knowledge of current issues regarding first amendment
     • U.S. Congress is not removing the first amendment
  3. Targeted knowledge of the composition of the first amendment
     • Rights explicitly stated: Speech, Religion, Petition, Press, Assembly

• Designed to test basic knowledge of the First Amendment
Interview Data

Success Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question 3</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Interview</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison Analysis of Quiz and Interview

Quiz’s success rating: 78%
Interview’s success rating: 18%

Why?

• Quiz gives added benefits
  • Text, time, odds
• Interview gives no added benefits
  • Verbal, “on the spot,” open-ended
Comparison Analysis of Quiz and Interview

Success Rates

- Interview
- Quiz
- Average

Success Rate