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High school students' views on the First Amendment

Sam Gill, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Steve Johnston

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KNIGHT FOUNDATION

INFORMED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

Dear Sarah,

Since 2004, Knight has commissioned surveys of American high schoolers to understand their attitudes toward the First Amendment. This has been the definitive research on how a rising generation thinks about this bedrock of our democracy. Today, we are [releasing a special report](#) that, for the first time, analyzes how student views on free speech have changed over the past 15 years of this research.

The report seeks to answer probing questions of whether students support the First Amendment, and if there are fault lines between gender and race on whether protections under free speech go too far.

The study reveals that high school students' support for the First Amendment has increased over the past 15 years, but divergences within gender and race began to emerge in 2011. Girls and students of color were more likely to agree that the First Amendment goes too far in its rights and guarantees.

This is a first-of-its-kind preview in the potential future of free expression in our society, and how its contours may change as a new generation comes of age. The report offers a number of other insights that may be useful to parents, educators and policymakers as they seek to support our democracy and train the next generation.

As we build upon this work, we invite you to learn more about our [findings here](#), and share it with your networks. Follow [@knightfdn](#) on Twitter for updates.

Best,

Sam Gill
VP/Communities and Impact

Knight Foundation

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John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
200 S. Biscayne Blvd, Suite 3300
Miami, FL 33131



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