

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from the Monday, December 5, 2016 print replica of The Seattle Times for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.

Article: Dallas case tests free-speech rights of a social media troll (Main, A11)

Objective:

Students will analyze the first amendment rights by analyzing how it plays a role in current events.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3

Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

What does it mean to have “free speech” in America? Why is free speech protected? Do you think that there should ever be a limit to protected free speech? Why or why not?

Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.

A. affidavit	1. to occupy the place of authority or control, as in an assembly or meeting; act as president or chairperson
B. crude	2. the amount of freedom to move or act that is available
C. leeway	3. manage or deal with (something) wrongly or ineffectively
D. mishandled	4. lacking tact or taste; blunt or offensive
E. personas	5. blasphemous or obscene language
F. presides	6. push, touch, or kick (something) with one's toe
G. profanity	7. the aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others

H. recused	8. a written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court
I. toed	9. (of a judge) excuse oneself from a case because of a possible conflict of interest or lack of impartiality

Comprehension

- 1) For what charge is Taherzadeh in jail?
- 2) Authorities say that Taherzadeh's tweets threaten what?
- 3) What does the First Amendment protect?
- 4) Describe what a "troll" is.
- 5) How many days in jail was Taherzadeh sentenced to in September of 2015?
- 6) When is the First Amendment's protection of free speech limited?
- 7) What constitutes a "true threat"?

Group Discussion Questions or Extension Activity:

- ***"He says many people say things online they wouldn't say to someone's face, even pointing to President-elect Donald Trump's tweets as an example."***
 - How do you feel about this statement? Do you agree? Should this be the case? Why or why not?
- ***"You come to America, you think it's all about freedom and stuff and you criticize a judge and you're in jail. I mean, is it only for white people?"***
 - Why do you think that Taherzadeh believes this? Is he right? Why or why not? Do you think that Taherzadeh should be in jail for what he did?
- Search the rest of the newspaper (or the archives of the print replica) to see what other examples of news stories you can find that involved the first amendment. Keep track – how many did you find? How are the stories similar? How are the stories different? Do any of the stories change your perspective on the initial article?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday and Wednesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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Newsbreak Answer Key: December 7, 2016

Vocabulary

- A. 8
- B. 4
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 7
- F. 1
- G. 5
- H. 9
- I. 6

Comprehension Answers

- 1) A felony stalking charge
- 2) Physical harm
- 3) Freedom of speech, religion, the press, the right to assemble and to petition the government, and it prevents the government from punishing people who exercise those rights
- 4) Student answers will vary.
- 5) 100 days in county jail
- 6) Once you issue a "true threat"
- 7) If you put a person in fear that you are going to do them physical harm