

Questions to Ask About Your School District Regarding Free Speech Policies and Practices

1. Please identify all your reasons for restricting speech of [specify student, activity, and date] in this instance.
2. Please identify the disturbing, intrusive, or disruptive effects this speech caused.
3. Please provide us with an explanation that outlines this governmental body's basis for identifying such speech as disturbing, disruptive, or intrusive to the educational environment. Be specific in explaining how this speech affected school and students.
4. Please explain the extent to which your decision to restrict the underlying speech was not motivated by a desire to merely avoid the discomfort or unpleasantness associated with reactions to the speech that was restricted. Also explain how your decision was not motivated by desire to avoid controversy or the serious discussions that would unfold outside of class or school with regards to the restricted speech.
5. Please identify every school/board/district policy that you believe authorizes the restriction of speech in this instance.
6. Please identify all similar instances of speech restrictions that were instituted pursuant to this policy and explain how such restrictions were imposed according to the generally applicable policy, and not by a desire to silent the specific viewpoint expressed.
7. Please provide us with the viewpoint neutral reasons the school/district/board determined that the underlying speech in this instance was disruptive, or otherwise warranted restriction.
8. Please explain how your decision to restrict speech in this instance was not motivated by fear of the reactions that audience members or other people in the community would have to the underlying speech.