

“Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed...” —Dwight D. Eisenhower

News stories and social media feeds are filled with examples of citizens practicing their First Amendment rights: speaking their minds, discussing their faith, sharing stories written by a free press, protesting policies and positions, and petitioning their government for change.

It's often stated that Americans take their freedoms for granted. While many remain silent and on the sidelines, many are also on the frontlines—practicing their freedoms, and keeping the promise of America alive and well. This year's Congress looks at some of the First Amendment challenges and controversies young citizens experienced on high school campuses.



# You're Invited

## 2015 First Amendment Congress

### for High School Students

Wednesday, **November 4, 2015** • Constitution Hall • **University of Central Oklahoma**, Edmond

#### Who should attend?

The First Amendment Congress is a day designed for high school students, educators, parents, anyone interested in helping our young people understand the First Amendment.

#### Where will the Congress be held?

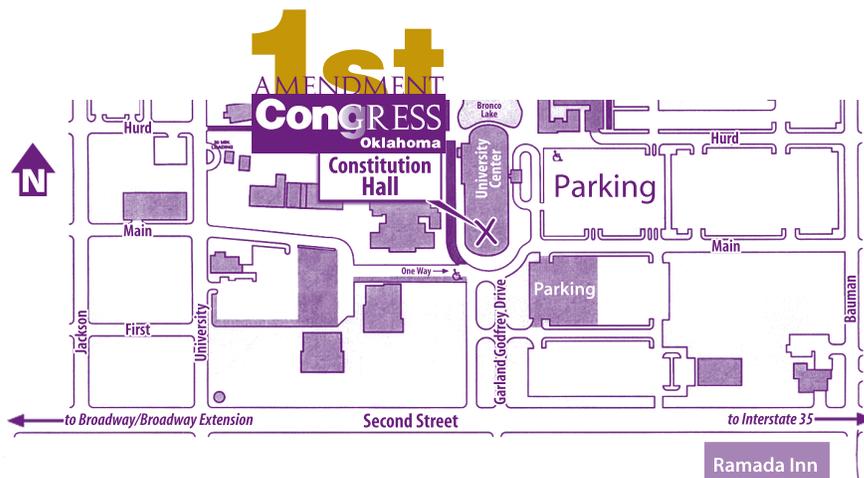
We'll meet at Constitution Hall in the University Center at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Enter the campus on Garland Godfrey Drive from Second Street. To get to Second Street in Edmond, exist east off Broadway or west off I-35.

#### Continuing Education Credit

CEU credit is planned for Public Librarian Certification, as is "Verification of Attendance" for educators.

#### Parking Information

Congress participants arriving in cars are asked to park east of Constitution Hall. (See map.) School buses will be given parking instructions when they arrive.



# Schedule

8:30 AM **Registration** Constitution Hall, UCO

9 AM **Opening Session**  
***The First Amendment Rights of High School Students***

How well do you understand the First Amendment provision on free speech? Oklahoma State University associate professor **Dr. Joey Senat**, our MC for the day, will present examples of challenged speech to enlighten students on this most fundamental freedom.

9:50 AM **Break**

10 AM ***Ignite Presentations***

Three Oklahoma high school classes will each make a short Ignite presentation on a particular First Amendment case that addresses a First Amendment freedom. A quick Q&A will follow each presentation.

10:50 AM **Break**

11 AM ***Haters Gonna Hate***

Did you know that Hate Speech is protected under the First Amendment? Did you also know imminent threats and breaking particular school policies can negate that protection? We'll look at some recent incidents in Oklahoma during the past year: the SAE video of a racist chant at OU that led to threatened expulsions, the racist tweet which led to a suspension at Charles Page High School in Sapulpa, and a homophobic social media posting that led to student suspensions at a Tulsa high school. Were schools right in taking corrective action against these students? Our panel will provide some surprising answers.

11:50 PM **Lunch**

12:45 PM **Zach D. Taylor Essay Contest winners recognized**

1:00 PM ***The First Amendment in Action...***

...in Oklahoma high schools! In Norman, mothers and daughters took to social media for the #YesAllDaughters movement to confront bullying, sexual harassment, and rape on the Norman High campus. Meanwhile, students at Capitol Hill High School joined with their community to petition the school administration and school board to change the school's mascot. **Alicia Currin-Moore**, Associate General Council with the OKC Public Schools, moderates a panel on these examples of the First Amendment in Action.

2:00 PM **Adjourn**

## Sponsor

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# Registration Form

Students and Teachers—**\$5** (includes lunch)      \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Students/Teachers      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Students/Teachers  
 All other individuals —**\$15** (includes lunch)      \_\_\_\_\_ Number of other individuals      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Individuals

Registration for students and teachers is **\$8 each after October 30**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Registration

Name(s) and Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ For more information, please visit [www.odl.state.ok.us/fyi/foi](http://www.odl.state.ok.us/fyi/foi)

**Attention Teachers:** Include only your name and contact information on this form. At this time, we only need to know how many students you are bringing. Please bring a list of students attending on the day of registration. **Registration Deadline—October 30**

Mail this form and payment to:

**Oklahoma Library Association**, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013  
405-525-5100 • Fax: 405-525-5103 • [kboies@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kboies@sbcglobal.net)

**Limited financial assistance** is available to help schools with transportation and administrative costs. For more information, contact the Oklahoma Library Association, 405-525-5100.

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